CANNOCK CHRONICLE

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ON-SPOT £100 FINES FOR YOBS

YOBS who make life hell for their neighbours face £100 on-the-spot fines under tough new measures being drawn up by Cannock Council.

By Marion Brennan

Dog owners who regularly fail to control their pets, and residents who persist in using their gardens as a dumping ground, will also be hit with the penalty.

Those who fail to pay up will be taken to court and face a £2,500 fine or three months in prison.

The powers are available under new government legislation brought in to make sure community problems can be dealt with faster and more directly, including by issuing fixed-penalty notices.

Each council can set its own fine up to a limit of £100. Cannock Council is expected to fine nuisance neighbours the full amount – and shun a discount for early payment.

Council leader George Adamson said: "We want to show these yobs we mean business."

Raucous

The authority, which covers Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford, also plans to bring in a 'three strikes' crackdown on law-breakers, which will compel police to act if they receive three complaints about unsociable behaviour within a six-month period.

The new powers have been criticised for being too wide-ranging. A councillor in Blackpool wants to put a stop to raucous stag and hen parties by banning provocatively dressed revellers.

Others say buskers, ball games and the homeless could fall victim to the new laws. But Councillor Adamson said commonsense would apply in the implemention of the powers.

"Our target are people who persistently make life miserable for other residents, be it dumping rubbish in their gardens, failing to keep their dogs under control in public places, harassing their neighbours or drinking and causing a nuisance to passers-by.

"This low-level thuggish behaviour is unacceptable and these new powers mean we can act immediately to stamp it out.

"We want Cannock Chase to be a safe place to live – people have a right to expect that. The district does have its problems with anti-social behaviour, although no worse than anywhere else, and we need to be able to act quickly to stop the problem escalating."

A Crime Prevention Injunction (CPI) will replace the existing Asbo but will be available at an earlier stage of bad behaviour and be easier and faster to use.

The new Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) can be used against people convicted of crime. Both have a lower standard of proof and could be put in place in days or even hours.

The powers are set to be introduced next month.

Richard chews over 50 years in trade

Quality assured – Richard Walker and his wife Angela celebrate at his market hall stall in Rugeley

A BUTCHER who started helping out on a market stall at the age of 11 is celebrating half a century in the trade.

Richard Walker used to work as a Saturday boy at DMT Butchers in Rugeley and after becoming the manager, he eventually took over the stall.

For the past 40 years he has worked full-time in the trade and the 61-year-old has says the longevity of the business is down to a loyal customer base.

He said: "We may not have the cheapest prices in town because we are a small business and so don't bulk buy and refuse to compromise the quality we give to our customers. We are thankful for all our loyal customers." DMT Butchers used to be based in Market Hall. When the hall closed in 1975, the business moved to Brewery Street while the new and current home of the indoor market in Bees Lane was being built.

Eventually the market hall was ready to move in 1980 and Mr Walker has been there ever since.

After marrying wife Angela, they took over the butchers in 1987 and renamed it Meat to Please You.

Mr Walker said the closure of Lea Hall Colliery in 1991 led to a massive downfall in trade and he said his business was now the only independent butchers left in Rugeley.

He sources all his meat locally and cooks his own ham, beef and turkey.

Mrs Walker, 56, also runs a shabby chic stall at the indoor market but still works part-time at Meat to Please You alongside her husband. The pair have two sons Tom and Joe.

Meat to Please You was recently awarded a five-star hygiene rating by Cannock Chase Council and has also recently been awarded Rugeley's Best Market Stall. Mrs Walker said: "We are grateful for all our customers who keep coming back."

Number of vehicles seized tops 3,000

MORE than 3,000 vehicles have been seized in the first 18 months of a crackdown on car insurance dodgers.

The campaign by Staffordshire Police has seen cars, vans, motorcycles, mopeds, lorries and even a tractor seized, with 951 of them scrapped, since it was launched in May last year.

Among the haul, 73 higher-value vehicles have been sold off at auction, raising almost £50,000 for community safety schemes. In all, 3,104 vehicles were taken off the roads.

The initiative, called Cars Behind Bars, was instigated by Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis, who said the campaign was gathering pace.

Recent annual figures released by the Motor Insurers' Bureau show there were an estimated 1,214 fewer uninsured vehicles on the road in Staffordshire in 2014 compared with 2013.

Mr Ellis said: "The crackdown on insurance dodgers remains far and away the most popular thing raised with me by people I've spoken to across the county."

The campaign uses the county's automatic number plate recognition system to identify law breakers. Some of the seized vehicles can be seen at www.staffordshire.police.uk/carsbehindbars

Police plea on injured player

A FOOTBALLER from Cannock who suffered a broken nose and jaw in a game is now recovering at home – as police continue to appeal for spectators to come forward.

The unnamed 26-year-old was injured playing for The Pied Piper against The Soldiers at Old Fallow Playing Fields on November 30. He was taken to hospital after a collision with an opponent.

Any spectators who were watching the game should call Staffordshire Police on 101 quoting incident 722 of November 30.

Charity in plea over business failures

A CHARITY is urging small businesses across Staffordshire to seek free advice if they are struggling to cope with their debts.

The advice comes after it was revealed that there were 3,275 'business deaths' in the county last year. The Money Advice Trust, the charity that runs Business Debtline, says many local sole traders and other small business owners are leaving it too late to seek advice.

The warning comes after new figures showed the struggles facing many businesses in the local area.

There were 3,275 so-called 'business deaths' (de-registrations) in Staffordshire throughout 2013, according to the Office of National Statistics. At the same time, 4,630 businesses were created. However, around one in four new businesses in the county (24 per cent) do not survive to see their second anniversary.

Meanwhile in Cannock Chase, 585 businesses were created and there were 315 'business deaths', meaning that the two-year death rate was also 24 per cent. In the South Staffordshire district, the rate was 18 per cent, after 450 business launches and 360 de-registrations.

Small businesses can visit www.businessdebtline.org or call 0800 197 6026.

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Welcome for newcomers

A WELCOME pack has been produced for people moving to Hednesford.

It includes information on all major services and guides to public transport and medical facilities and has been launched to help those moving to the town feel at home.

The Welcome to Hednesford pack is the brainchild of Hednesford Town Council.

Its chairman Councillor Doris Grice said: "It can be very daunting when you move to a new area to find out what is out there."

Cash4Clothes Melvyn X

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Odell to perform at Cannock Chase

TOM ODELL is to perform at Cannock Chase next year.

The singer-songwriter, whose version of Real Love is on the John Lewis Christmas advert, is the first big name to sign up for the Forest Live concerts on the Chase. He will take to the stage on July 12 and tickets are on sale.

Odell will be performing at six other Forestry Commission-owned sites in the summer. His debut album, Long Way Down, released in June 2013 reached number one in the charts.

He said: "This will be a whole new experience for me. I can't wait to bring my live show to the woods."

An extra outdoor concert will be performed on Cannock Chase next year. A Sunday night performance has been added to the bill in 2015, alongside the usual Friday and Saturday gigs. The outdoor concerts will run at the Birches Valley site from July 10 to 12. This summer, pop princess Jessie J and Paul Weller were the star turns.

Organised by the Forestry Commission, Forest Live sees big names play in beauty spots around the UK, with revenue from ticket sales ploughed into improving the woodland.

Previous big name performers on the Chase include Blondie, Paloma Faith, Erasure and Sugababes.

Tom Odell at the V Festival

Paramedic guilty over death outside A&E unit

A PARAMEDIC from Great Wyrley has admitted failing in his duty of care after a man collapsed and died outside an A&E department.

Matthew Geary, of Manor Avenue, pleaded guilty to failing to discharge his relevant duty by not taking reasonable care of Carl Cope. At Wolverhampton Crown Court, the 36-year-old admitted he did not provide a 'prompt and proper' examination after 47-year-old Mr Cope collapsed outside Walsall Manor Hospital on June 23, 2012.

Geary further conceded that he failed to quickly start resuscitation of Mr Cope, who had suffered a fatal heart attack.

It is understood the victim, who lived in Parker Street, Bloxwich, had gone to the hospital earlier in the day with chest pains and collapsed after momentarily stepping outside.

No further details were given to the court but Judge John Warner was told the defendant was no longer a paramedic with West Midlands Ambulance Service.

The case was adjourned to a date to be fixed and the full facts will be outlined when Geary is sentenced.

Probe

Judge Warner granted the defendant bail but warned that this would not 'tie the hands' of the court in deciding the appropriate outcome.

A paramedic was sacked, one resigned and an emergency medical technician and emergency care assistant at West Midlands Ambulance Service were both given final written warnings after an internal probe into the incident.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs the Manor, also conducted its own internal investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Cope.

This was concluded in October 2012 and as a result four members of staff were sacked and two others disciplined.

£40m link road open to traffic

A £40 MILLION motorway junction to a flagship business site has opened to traffic.

Drivers have started using the new M54 slip road to the i54 site on the border of Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire – home of the £500 million Jaguar Land Rover plant.

All traffic will access the site from the new junction, with only buses, cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians able to access on Wobaston Road.

Fines of £60 will be issued to unauthorised motorists using the Wobaston Road entrance.

The development has seen junction two of the M54 rebuilt and new link roads built from the A449. It also involved the installation of a replacement 45metre 500-ton bridge across the M54.

The site has been developed in partnership between Staffordshire County Council, Wolverhampton City Council and South Staffordshire Council, with the city and county investing over £40m in the junction and site infrastructure.

South Staffordshire Council leader Councillor Brian Edwards said: "It is a real milestone to see the new junction open."

Towie stars mean business

Georgia Kousoulou and, centre, Danni Armstrong with, right, Lyndsey Kibble

THE only way was Chasetown as stars of Essex's hit reality TV show were welcomed by hundreds of fans.

Danni Armstrong and Georgia Kousoulou helped to mark the official opening of businesses in High Street.

The Only Way is Essex stars were asked to perform the grand openings of shops including the Beau Chevoux hair salon and the Renaissance clothing boutique.

They also attended an opening evening for Design Elegance and marked the refurbishment of Tanzotique. Businesses in the area decided to get cast members to come along, and more than 200 people gathered to see them arrive. Lyndsey Kibble owns the Tanzotique beauty salon which is next door to Beau Chevoux, and is being run by her friend Stephanie Sadler.

The hair salon has been based within the Tanzotique premises for two years but it was decided to convert the neighbouring unit, which she also owns, into its own larger business space.

Chance to invest in energy scheme

A COMMUNITY benefit society is urging Cannock residents to invest in a project which will provide free solar electricity for pensioners – and a competitive financial return for the investor.

The minimum sum that Chase Community Solar (CCS) needs to be raised for the project to start is £370,000 which would mean that 150 council bungalows would be able to have solar PV installed in the early spring. Over half this figure has been achieved.

Full information on the scheme is available at www.chasesolar.org.uk and shares can be purchased on line at www.ethex.org.uk

CCS chair Mike Kinghan said: "The minimum investment in the project is £100, while an investment of £2,500 will enable us to purchase a set of panels for another tenant, most of who are elderly or in poor health, or both.

"We are not asking people to dip into their pockets to give to charity.

"We are offering a competitive rate of return – a projected seven percent over the 20-year life of the project with the additional prospect of 30 per cent tax relief. This is a real win-win," he added.

Nominations are wanted

PEOPLE who have received excellent care from carers, volunteers and students across Staffordshire are being encouraged to nominate them for a special award.

The Dignity Awards recognise carers, care services and community groups who respect people's dignity.

To nominate someone, go to www.staffordshire.gov.uk/dignityincare, email dignity@staffordshire.gov.uk or call 01785 355795.

Nominations close on January 6.

Winners will receive their awards during a ceremony on March 25.

Wassail date

A TRADITIONAL Wassailing ceremony is planned at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's HQ. There will be displays from Beggars Oak Clog Dancers and Lichfield Morris Men at the Wolseley Centre, between Stafford and Rugeley, on January 11 from 3pm to 5.30pm.

Members' savings go past £250,000

FUSION Credit Union has reached a milestone – the total amount of savings in members' accounts is now more than a quarter of a million pounds.

Membership of the volunteer-run organisation, which is open to anyone living or working in Cannock or Lichfield, has grown to 700-plus, with more than 100 joining in the last year.

The total loans taken out is also at a record high of nearly £75,000.

"We are making a real difference for people in the Lichfield and Cannock Chase districts, making it easier to save and providing loans which they can afford." said president Peter Selwyn.

"Our borrowers can pay less than £45 per month for a 12-month loan of £500. That's less than £35 in interest for the whole year. Affordable, low-rate loans are available to all members."

The Annual General Meeting for the financial year 2013-14 will be held at Jigsaw, in Dimbles Lane, Lichfield, on February 28.

"All members are encouraged to attend; it is your credit union and your vote counts," Mr Selwyn added.

For further details, call 01543 415032 or go to www.fusioncreditunion.co.uk

Application for Scout hut

PLANNING applications registered with Lichfield District Council include:

Scout hut pavillion, Millmoor Avenue, Armitage, erection of new Scout hut.

Cricket Farm, Dodds Lane, Chorley, first floor extension to form wet room.

Land adjacent 60 Lichfield Road, Burntwood, erection of detached dwelling.

2 Selwyn Road, Burntwood, new boundary wall and entrance gates.

Land adjacent 101, Baker Street, Burntwood, erection of two bedroom bungalow.

Observations must be received by December 31.

Extended hours

PENKRIDGE Leisure Centre is extending its Christmas opening times this year. It will be open on the following days: December 27 9am-3pm, December 28 9am-3pm, December 29 3pm-8pm, December 30 10am-3pm, and December 31 7am-1pm.

HS2 campaigners lose latest legal battle

CAMPAIGNERS have lost their latest legal battle over the Government's high-speed rail project HS2.

Objectors have warned that large areas along the route could be unnecessarily hit by a costly planning blight for an indefinite period. The latest legal challenge concerns the London-Birmingham Phase 1 section of the scheme.

The Government was accused of unlawfully failing to carry out a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) which might help to alleviate problems being caused by the flagship scheme for local people and businesses. But three appeal judges unanimously rejected the challenge.

At a hearing last month David Elvin QC argued that an SEA was required before 'safeguarding directions' could be made by the Transport Secretary to protect Phase 1 land from local councils giving planning permission for other, conflicting developments. Mr Elvin, representing the HS2 Action Alliance (HS2AA) and Hillingdon Council in west London – both are campaigning against the current scheme – said 'generous' areas of land extending beyond the route were protected because they might be required for temporary storage of spoil, or for compounds, work accesses or other functions in relation to the project.

The land had been included without any proper debate or assessment of environmental impacts or alternative options, he argued. Mr Elvin said: "The effect of this is to blight development in the land covered by the direction for an indefinite period – and without an SEA which might have enabled the impacts to be minimised or avoided."

But Lord Justice Longmore, Lord Justice Sullivan and Lord Justice Lewison agreed that an SEA was not required before safeguarding directions could be made.

After the ruling, Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin urged HS2 opponents, who have mounted more than 20 legal challenges, to end their 'fruitless' court cases.

District ranked among the debt hotspots as bills soar

CANNOCK has been named among the biggest 'debt hotspots' where the highest concentrations of people are seeking help from Citizens Advice.

The charity, which has helped almost half a million people with debt over the last year, made the hotspot findings after analysing the cries for help with debt that it received across England and Wales between July and September.

By Simon Stone

It is also seeing evidence that the reasons why people are sinking into levels of debt that they cannot cope with are changing. The body said that since the economic crisis, problems with consumer debt such as credit cards and personal loans have fallen significantly.

By contrast, problems with 'priority debts' such as rent arrears and council tax debts are growing.

Problems

For example, in 2007-08, around one in five debt problems reported to Citizens Advice were credit card or store card-related.

That proportion has since halved to one in 10 and has been overtaken by the share of people with debt problems who are in council tax arrears. As many people's budgets remain on a knife-edge despite the recovering economy, the charity is seeing increasing numbers of people tipped into problem debt by their everyday living costs rather than the trigger being a particular life event such as the loss of a job or a divorce.

The charity dealt with 336 clients in Cannock Chase between July and September, equating to 0.43 per cent of the adult population there. And in Sandwell, 1,015 sought advice, which also equates to 0.43 per cent of the borough's population.

Citizens Advice chief executive Gillian Guy said: "Times have changed, and so have people's debt problems. Consumer debts like credit cards and personal loans have traditionally been the most common debt problems .

"But now priority debts such as council tax arrears are gradually building up.

"In the past, people were more likely to get help for debt problems triggered by life events such as illness, redundancy or separation.

"But in recent years more people are being pushed into debt as they struggle to stretch their income to cover everyday living costs."

Soldier draws in funds

A SOLDIER who grew up in Staffordshire has published a book of sketches he drew while on an operational tour in Afghanistan. Captain Alex Biddulph of 26th Regiment, Royal Artillery has deployed twice to Afghanistan. He is currently based in Germany. 'Drawing the Front Line' is a collection of sights he recorded between patrols as a way of relaxing. Proceeds of the book will be split between the Blesma military charity and ABF The Soldier's Charity.

Cannock Chase Council investigated a report that workers were removing trees

£900 bill over trees cut down illegally

A HOMEOWNER has been hit with a £900 bill after cutting down trees on council-owned land without permission.

Cannock Chase Council began investigating after receiving a report that workers were removing trees on the Carfax Estate off Walsall Road, Rumer Hill. They were spotted by a member of the public as the trees could be seen from the road.

The two men were approached by the council's parks and open spaces team, questioned and evidence was taken from them. They revealed who was paying them to do the work.

With the help of Staffordshire Police, the resident who ordered the work to be carried out was also questioned and admitted everything after previously being told by the council the trees did not need pruning.

Court action was not pursued but the man has to pay £800, although that amount does not cover the full cost of replacing the felled trees.

Councillor Christine Mitchell, culture and sport portfolio leader, said: "As the resident confessed and agreed that they would pay to replant the trees, this particular incident was kept out of court."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Support given for plea on medicines

A DECISION-MAKING health group is backing a campaign to reduce wasted medicine which will begin next month.

Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) governing body added its support when it met in public for the last time this year.

The meeting was held at the Aquarius Ballroom, in Hednesford.

Other decisions made included approval for the Personal Health Budgets policy, and the Staffordshire draft frail elderly strategy was ratified.

Chief's thank you after fire strike

STAFFORDSHIRE'S Chief Fire Officer has praised residents and businesses after the number of incidents dropped during the Fire Brigades Union strike compared with the same time last year.

Across the county, a total of 13 incidents were attended by crews. This compares with 28 during the same period in 2013.

Chief Fire Officer Peter Dartford said: "I would like to thank members of the community for listening to our advice."

£40m plan for new schools unveiled

FIVE new primary schools in Lichfield will be built and the city's three existing secondary schools expanded under new plans.

The £40 million project has been launched to meet the anticipated demand for pupil places over the next 15 years.

Education bosses say that as the city expands, up to 1,500 extra primary and secondary school places will be needed.

Lions Club puts on special lunch

CANNOCK Lions Club organised a Christmas Lunch at St Luke's church hall for members of the Welcome Club and Vision.

A Christmas lunch was cooked from scratch. Amanda Milling, prospective Conservative candidate, provided the turkey and attended the event. Mince pies and puddings were donated by Asda.

Club to host band

IRISH influenced six-piece band The Bad Rats will be playing a concert at Longford Social Club in Cannock on Saturday. Support will be from Amongst The People. Call the club on 01543 502820 for details.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

OWING to a door being accidentally left open I spent the night sharing a bed with the cat and was reminded of a crucial difference between dogs and cats. A dog will never sit on your head.

BAH, humbug and off to the big store. It is the duty of every male at this time of year to be dragged up and down tinsel-decked aisles while looking at pointless objects. Consider the following: A window vacuum. A gluten-free sausage-making kit. A small book entitled A Guinea Pig Nativity. You can measure the state of society's development by counting the number of objects we can manage perfectly well without.

THE Daily Telegraph leader column, no less, assures us this week that Kate and William's little boy "will be George VII one fine day." Not if his grandfather beats him to it, he won't. There is still speculation that Prince Charles, on taking the throne, will style himself King George VII. Let us hope we have to wait a very long time to find out.

IS there anything sillier than the claim by Ukip leader Nigel Farage that he was late for a party in Wales as a result of immigration causing traffic jams? Yes, there is. It is the monstrous, head-in-the-sand delusion among so many politicians that the population of the UK can rise from 50 million to 70 million in a single lifetime and cause no problems at all. Voters are tempted by Farage only because they are governed by ostriches.

LIFE imitates art but politics imitates adverts. In the Twix TV commercial, the makers of the chocolate twin-bar have a row and set up separate factories, one producing the left bar, the other the right. Both are convinced their products are totally different but everyone can see they are identical. And so to the interview with shadow chancellor Ed Balls on Today (Radio 4) when Sarah Montague tried, and failed, to establish which government department budgets would be cut by a future Labour government, and by how much. Balls' message is that Labour's cuts will be fair but tough. George Osborne's message is that Tory cuts will be tough but fair. Left bar? Right bar? It's a puzzle, innit? Meanwhile, Sarah Montague's brave but futile attempt to shine a light into Labour's true intentions should be recorded and shown to schoolchildren everywhere as an example of that useful phrase: "Like trying to nail blancmange to the ceiling."

I GET a regular stream of mail from a small but noisy group of old codgers complaining about how hard-up pensioners are these days. The suggestion is that there was once a golden age when pensioners had enough money. Remind me. When was that?

THERE is a theory that people are drawn to careers which reflect their name, which is why Mr Salmon works for the water company and Miss Frost is a weather forecaster. A reader reports a fine concreting job completed by Norman the Concretor and Jim'll Mix It.

A READER overheard this conversation between a stallholder and an English customer trying to get into the spirit of the Frankfurt Christmas Market in Birmingham by ordering a sausage and mustard in the lingo. Brit: "Eine Bratwurst mit Senf, bitte ." Stallholder: "No point talking like that, mate. I'm from Sedgley."

BENEFITS Street (C4) returns next year, this time examining the lager-fuelled underclass in Stockton-on-Tees. In response, a local campaign has been launched to promote the town's image. It is called The Positively Stockton-on-Tees campaign, to be known as Psst for short. Seriously.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Blaze injuries more than halved

THE number of people injured in property fires across Staffordshire has more than halved in the past decade, a new report has revealed.

Staffordshire's Chief Fire Officer Peter Dartford presented the results at a meeting of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

The statistics compare April 2003-March 2004 and April 2013-March 2014. Mr Dartford told authority members that the number of property fires involving casualties dropped dramatically by 54 per cent from 3,183 to 1,465.

The number of people injured or killed in accidental fires in homes was reduced by almost half from 50 to 27. Figures for accidental fires in homes dropped from 629 to 564.

Grass fires have seen a major 66 per cent reduction from 2,584 to 886 while small fires have decreased by 60 per cent from 3,398 to 1,370.

Mr Dartford said: "I am delighted with the major reduction in the number of incidents, across the board that we have attended in 2013-2014 compared to a decade previously.

"The proactive work that we are carrying out as a service, often in partnership with partner organisations, is really paying off and proves that prevention is at least as effective, and far better and cheaper than cure.

"The figures are a testament to everyone who works for and with the fire and rescue service in Staffordshire and I am immensely proud of all the hard work that has gone into achieving these results."

£1.7m new fire station holds images of past

By Craig Hughes

A TIME capsule with photographs of firefighters over the years has been buried in the grounds of a new £1.7 million station.

The modern Chase Terrace community fire station was opened in the autumn and it was decided to recognise the milestone. The capsule has photographs of past and present firefighters taken at a recent celebration during a fond farewell to the old station in Rugeley Road.

There is also a brochure for the original building dating back to when it was opened in 1969.

Written work created by pupils at Chase Terrace Primary has been included along with a school brochure.

Crew members, former firefighters, fire service personnel, members of the Fire and Rescue Authority and councillors were among those invited to attend the burial of the capsule, which was was buried by Watch Manager Tim Anslow.

Emphasis

Station Manager Tim Hollingworth said: "This is a key milestone for the new community fire station in Chase Terrace. It will create a legacy that can be discovered in decades to come and will offer an insight into the area as it is today as well as in years gone by.

"The new station has an emphasis on greater engagement with local people and the fact that the time capsule contains contributions from a range of residents reflects that ethos. We are looking forward to working closely with the community in the future."

Chase Terrace Primary headteacher Gordon McBurnie said: "The pupils are really excited to be attending the time capsule burial and have created some excellent written work which will be included.

"The aim is to give an insight to children of the future about what life is like in Chase Terrace in 2014. It is a fantastic opportunity for them to get involved in their community and to make a lasting impact."

Tim Anslow buries the capsule with, from left, firefighters Glyn Chen, Ashley Cockrill, crew manager Paul Robinson, Station Officer Tim Hollingworth, firefighter Darren Twist, group manager Tim Hyde and firefighter Andrew Wint

Roy Anslow, left – uncle of Tim Anslow, who buried the capsule – at the station opening in 1969

A brochure for the original building dating back to when it was opened in 1969 has been included in the capsule

Charity in plea over surviving the winter

A STAFFORDSHIRE charity has launched an appeal to help vulnerable people survive the winter months.

The annual Survive Winter campaign run by Staffordshire Community Foundation aims to tackle the fuel poverty crisis faced by the elderly and vulnerable people in the area.

Figures by the Office for National Statistics estimated that 30,000 more people in England and Wales died in the winter months last year, an increase of 29 per cent on previous years.

The charity is one of 33 community foundations running the campaign across the UK and last year the campaign raised £1.46m, helping 23,000 individuals.

The campaign began in 2010 for people who received but did not need Winter Fuel Payment to donate it to those that did.

From that, the appeal expanded to receive donations directed to the local groups supporting vulnerable people in winter. Money raised pays for everything from individual bursaries for fuel bills and hot water bottles to lunch clubs for older people and boiler repairs.

To donate to the campaign call 01785 353789 or visit www.staffsfoundation.org.uk/survivingwinter

Crime boss at meeting

MATTHEW Ellis, Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, spoke to councillors from Cannock at a Parish and Town Council forum.

The Commissioner discussed the progress made in the first two years of his role along with the challenges and opportunities facing policing and the criminal justice system across Staffordshire.

He said: "It was a great opportunity to speak to councillors in the Cannock area. I thoroughly enjoyed the interesting questions and discussions we had."

Extra meeting

AN additional meeting of South Staffordshire Council's overview and scrutiny committee will be held on January 27 at 6.30pm. The Director of Legal and Public Health Protection and the Democratic Services Manager will present Part 2 of the constitutional review.

Business leaders advised on terror

STAFFORDSHIRE Police have been providing information to support businesses to help their understanding of potential terrorist threats and how best to take action to keep safe.

The final event of the programme saw temporary Assistant Chief Constable Jon Drake welcome more than 20 delegates from businesses across the county at Staffordshire Police Headquarters.

The aim of the activities was to raise awareness of potential threats of terrorism, to encourage people to be vigilant and offer simple steps to take to make it harder for terrorists to attack.

Mr Drake said: "Everyone has a role to play in keeping the country safe from terrorism. Nobody is better placed to detect something that is out of place in their communities than the people living and working in them."

Key messages underlined the need for everyone to work together to effectively combat terrorism threat.

Staff in businesses located in crowded places have an invaluable role to play as they are often the first to spot signs that something is wrong, Mr Drake added.

Severn Trent in leaks call

RESIDENTS in Cannock Chase are being urged to report any water leaks they spot around the district.

Severn Trent Water has launched the campaign to stop leaks from freezing and becoming dangerous ice patches in the cold weather.

Griff Watkins, who has been finding and fixing leaks across Staffordshire for 11 years, said: "We take leakage very seriously.

"So we need our customers' help. If you spot a leak while you're out and about, call our Leakline number on 0800 783 4444, the call is free on most landlines."

Visit to the past

YEAR 2 children at Chase View Primary School in Rugeley went back in time to experience life in Victorian settings when they visited Shugborough. They had hands-on experience with a tour of the servants quarters and sat in on a Victorian lesson in handwriting.

Designated drivers to be rewarded by pubs

DESIGNATED drivers will be rewarded in more than 100 Staffordshire pubs over the holiday period as part of the 'I'll be DES' and THINK! Christmas drink drive campaign.

The 'I'll be DES' campaign is being supported by the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership and will be encouraging people to nominate a designated driver for their night out. For staying off the drink, DES's will be rewarded with free or reduced rate soft drinks at an ever increasing number of the county's pubs and clubs. Posters with the message 'Stop & Think Get your mates home safely this Christmas' will be displayed at participating venues.

DES's may need to show their car keys or wear a wrist band to take advantage of the soft drinks offers.

Speaking on behalf of the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership, Councillor Mark Deaville, Cabinet Support Member for Highways and Transport with Staffordshire County Council, said: "Keeping our roads safe is one of our top priorities and Staffordshire is now in the top two counties in England for road safety. This is something we are proud of and have worked hard to achieve, and its campaigns like 'I'll be DES' which are helping us do this.

"Designated drivers provide a fantastic service by helping their friends and family get home safely. That's why we think it is so important to recognise and reward them.

"I'm very pleased to see that so many of our pubs, clubs and restaurants have joined the campaign."

"We're also reminding people this Christmas about the risks of driving the morning after a night out as drivers could be quite unwittingly over the drink drive limit having been drinking the night before. We know that each unit of alcohol takes a minimum of one hour to pass through the body, so it's best not to drink if you know you have to drive the following morning."

Staffordshire is in the top two counties in the country for road safety with the lowest figures since records began in 1984. The Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership is committed to reducing casualties on the county's highways through a combination of education and training programmes, enforcement, road engineering and publicity.

For a full list of venues taking part visit www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/i'll-be-des

Town's homeowners join Stop the Sale campaign

RUGELEY homeowners are putting up Stop the Sale signs as they join the fight against private firms being allowed to bid for cancer care and end-of-life services.

It comes after residents in Stafford started doing the same last month in opposition to the plans.

A shortlist of seven firms has been drawn up allowing them to bid for two contracts in Staffordshire.

But the move has sparked a flood of protest from people who say making profits from the care of cancer patients is immoral and it amounts to back door privatisation.

The estate agency-style Stop the Sale signs are being put up in Rugeley by the Cancer – Not for Profit campaign group who are calling on the 'Cameron and Hunt estate agents' – a reference to the Prime Minister and the Health Secretary – to stop the sale.

Homeowners taking part in Rugeley live in roads including Attlee Crescent, Springfield Avenue, Priory Road, Seabrook Road, Thompson Road and Garrick Rise.

Contracts

David Brooks, of Seabrook Road, said: "Hundreds of households are sending a clear message by raising Stop the Sale signs.

"We are also urging our MP, Aiden Burley, to pressure David Cameron to take health out of the dangerous trade deal called Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership." He added that since 2012, almost 70 per cent of NHS contracts put up for sale have gone to the private sector.

Health chiefs say that all the organisations which applied were subject to a rigorous scrutiny and evaluation process during the first stage of applying.

MP seeking support on Net speeds

AN MP is urging householders across Staffordshire to lend their support to his campaign for improvements surrounding broadband speed.

Lichfield MP Michael Fabricant raised his concerns in the Commons about connectivity.

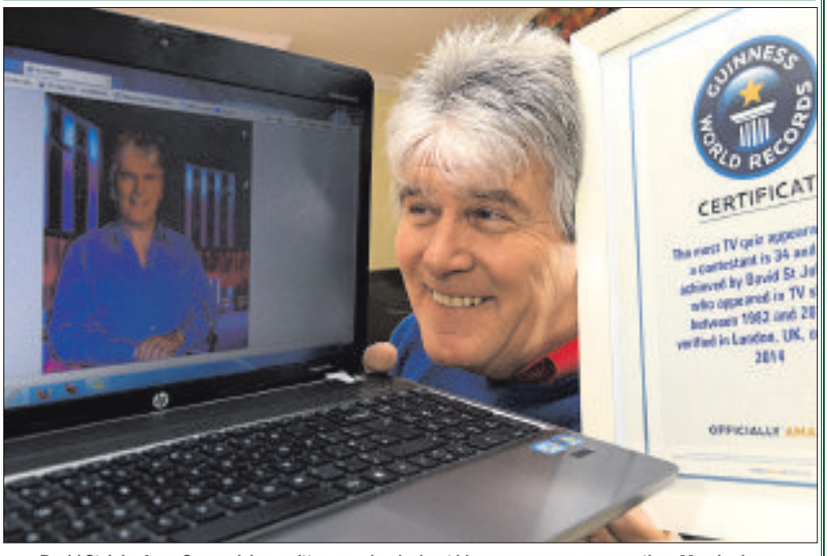
Since April, 12,000 properties in Staffordshire have been switched on to high-speed broadband and thousands more homes are expected to benefit.

An extra £15 million is being ploughed into the project, with Burntwood, Cannock and Stafford set to be among the first to get the new 24 megabits per second service.

But the MP said more needs to be done to improve coverage in the county and he is calling on residents and businesses to back his campaign.

He added: "I'm supporting the Countryside Alliance and technology company Actual Experience's BbFix project to help broadband users to find answers to their problems. Coverage and speed have long been contentious issues."

Game show addict tells his story



David St John from Cannock has written an e-book about his appearances on more than 30 quiz shows

HE has appeared on more than 30 TV game shows over the years and has even made it into the Guinness Book of Records.

Now, Britain's most prolific TV quiz show contestant, David St John from Cannock, has written a book detailing his escapades on various programmes.

Over the past 32 years, he has appeared on Fifteen to One, Eggheads, The Chase and The Weakest Link.

He wrote Yours Quizzically: Confessions Of A TV Quiz Addict a couple of months ago. He said: "I went on my first quiz show in 1982 and I've been on about 36 shows since.

"I thought earlier this year 'Why not write about it?'"

The book features a short description of trivia mad Mr St John, who lives in Pebble Mill Drive, Cannock, his top tips on how to apply to be on a quiz show and his TV highs and lows. It also includes a summary of every single show he has appeared on.

Yours Quizzically: Confessions Of A TV Quiz Addict is available as an e-book Amazon but Mr St John said if it was a success he would publish hard copies.

Mr St John's love affair with game shows began in 1982 when he appeared on Sale of the Century.

But he says his biggest achievement is securing a place in the Guinness Book of Records. He was crowned Britain's Most Prolific TV Quiz Show Contestant and now holds the record for the Most TV Quiz Appearances.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sponsorship bid on police cadets

PEOPLE are being urged to sponsor the Staffordshire Police Cadets as the group looks to expand.

Youngsters between the ages of 10 and 17 in the county can sign up to the organisation which is said to give them skills they will need for their future.

Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis says he wants to expand the service so that all young people in the area have the chance to become a cadet. All donations will go into the Staffordshire Commissioner's Corporate Social Responsibility Fund.

Call 01785 232270.

Takeover Day at county council

A COUNCIL committee was taken over by young people in Staffordshire as part of an annual event.

Seven youngsters aged between 13 and 18 led the county council's corporate parenting panel, presenting on a range of topics and reporting back on their work over the last year.

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day is a national event that puts young people at the heart of decision making, allowing them to have their views listened to by adults.

Service is among the best tweeters

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) is one of the top NHS Twitter accounts in the country, according to analysis undertaken of the use of social media in the NHS.

The trust was third overall but was singled out as the leading NHS Twitter account outside London.

It has almost 18,000 followers and has tweeted more than 12,000 times since going live in 2011.

Official launch of ambulance hub

AN opening ceremony has been held for a new ambulance hub in Lichfield.

The hub in Eastern Avenue replaces the city's previous ambulance station which was based on the site of the fire station in Birmingham Road.

The new premises accommodates 85 staff, 15 ambulances and four rapid response vehicles.

Church's thanks

ST Anne's Church, in Church Street, Chasetown, has thanked everyone who visited its Christmas Tree Festival, which raised more than £800 to be divided between St Anne's and Trudy's Trust.

Steve and all the staff at Goliath would like to say a huge thank you to all their customers for an extremely busy 2014, and wish them all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Goliath staff are having a well earned extended Christmas holiday period, and we look forward to a new year in 2015!

We close at 4pm Saturday 20th December and will re-open as normal at 9am Monday 5th January.

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GOLIATH HOMEWORLD THE GIANT IN HOME IMPROVEMENTS

IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

ONE thing that maybe should have been on your Christmas list – a pillowcase using technology borrowed from Nasa?

Now maybe you were under the misconception that pillow cases were pretty much one and the same. Ok, some might be polyester, some cotton – maybe silk if you're from Tettenhall – but by and large, there isn't that much technology that goes into them.

Well, our good friends in the old US of A are really pushing the envelope (I think that's what they say across the pond) with their latest development in pillowcase technology.

Completely demolishing the myth that space exploration is an expensive luxury, somebody has used the findings of extra-terrestrial research to come up with a range of pillowcases that look and smell like bacon. Why did nobody come up with this sooner?

"Our bacon-scented pillowcases use state-of-the-art printing technology we stole from Nasa to allow the scent of bacon to permeate your dreams and expand your mind," says the press release.

"That's right, the scent of bacon is embedded in the ink on these specially printed pillowcases," adds the wonderfully understated missive.

If cared for according to the included instructions, the smell will last for six-to-12 months, and can endure multiple wash cycles.

Not only that, sleeping on a machine-washable bacon buttie can also enrich the mind, giving us better dreams and a dramatic rise in intelligence levels according to some of the more bizarre claims.

It also promises easier morning wake-ups and effortless weight loss.

Unless, of course, you eat your pillowcase.

❐❐❐❐❐

MEMO to local authorities, and other taxpayer-funded bodies. Replacing words with numerals, such as Pathway 2 Change or Plan 4 Life does not make you look trendy, relevant or cool.

It does make you look semi-literate and stupid, though. And is it any wonder that some youngsters leave school barely able to construct a sentence in basic English when the authorities which are supposed to be educating them appear unable to tell the difference between numbers and letters?

❐❐❐❐❐

MEANWHILE, the British Army will send hundreds of troops over to Iraq in the New Year, to 'pass on the lessons learned in Afghanistan'.

Lessons learned in Afghanistan? The words 'horse', 'bolted' and 'stable door' spring to mind. Perhaps if a previous prime minister had learned the lessons from the past, we would never have sent any troops to Afghanistan in the first place.

MP Gavin Williamson's choice

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey's card

Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz's card

Wolverhampton's Emma Reynolds's choice

The party leaders' choice of cards for this year

Walsall MP David Winnick's choice

House of cards for political Christmas

Differing politician festive card designs show a wide variety of styles as we head towards election year

FROM the Houses of Parliament in the snow to the drawings of schoolchildren, MPs always try to find their own way of saying Merry Christmas.

While party leaders such as David Cameron, Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg put themselves on the front of their cards, backbenchers and shadow ministers like to reflect the people they represent.

Some go as far as to organise competitions months in advance among youngsters as they seek the right design.

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey was so keen to get started he launched his competition in June, while temperatures were in the low 20s.

But the Labour MP wanted to give every primary school in his constituency the opportunity to get involved.

Nine eventually took him up on the offer and had their youngsters submit their designs.

The winning entry was by 10-year-old Mohammed Rezwan Shuvo of Sacred Heart Primary School in Tipton, who painted his school in the snow.

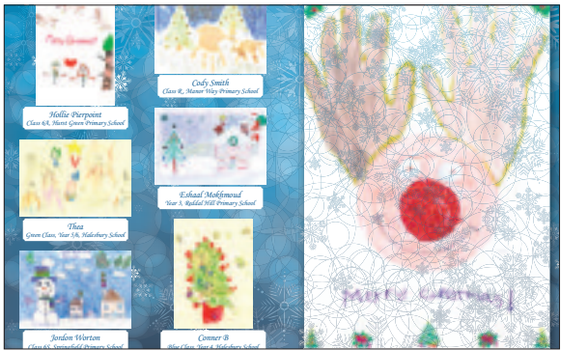
His picture will now feature on the front of Mr Bailey's constituency Christmas cards of which more than 1,000 are being sent to constituents, businesses, places of worship and schools.

Mr Bailey said: "Mohammed's entry was fantastic as were all the entries and it was very difficult to choose a winner."

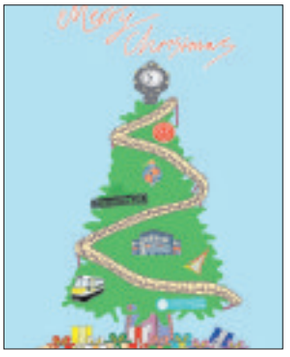
All the pictures are being displayed in Tipton Library where the majority of the schools took part in the competition.

Another MP who chose a youngster to create his card's image was South Staffordshire's Gavin Williamson.

As Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, he will be sure to send a card to David Cameron.



The card chosen by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris



Stourbridge MP Margot James's card

That means Caitlin Oakley, who is in year nine at Wombourne's Ounsdale Primary School, will have her picture of a snowman and snow woman in front of the village maypole on display in 10 Downing Street.

Wolverhampton North East's Emma Reynolds chose from 100 entries from primary schools.

The winner was Melissa Malahleha, aged 10, a pupil at St Paul's Primary School in Pendeford.

Miss Reynolds, shadow housing minister, said: "I send over 500 cards every year, so I was excited to give one of my talented young constituents an opportunity to design it."

James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, and Margot James, who represents Stourbridge also got young people to design their cards. Miss James worked with Stourbridge College Art and Design Centre in Brierley Hill.

The winner was Aaron-Ryan Samra, studying a one year diploma in foundation studies art and design. Other MPs go for something that shows where they work. Valerie Vaz, who represents Walsall South, went for an image of a ceiling boss depicting St Catherine from the Chapel of St MaryUndercroft at the Palace of Westminster.

David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, chose one of the Elizabeth Tower, which houses Big Ben.

The photograph was taken by Catherine Bebbington and is part of the official selection chosen by the Commons Speaker John Bercow.

Official

Lichfield Conservative Michael Fabricant, who has been highly critical of Mr Bercow's conduct this year and called for him to go over his treatment of a former Clerk of the House, has not gone with the official selection. Instead he has used a photograph of Westminster in the snow, taken from the Terrace of the Commons, on the side near the Thames that the public does not get to see. "It was taken by a friend of mine, Sir John Randall MP, and I made a few Photoshop changes to bring out the colours," Mr Fabricant said.

David Cameron, Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg opted for starkly different styles for their final festive cards before the general election battle.

The Prime Minister has signalled his intent with a statesmanlike photograph outside 10 Downing Street. A besuited Tory leader is shown standing alongside wife Samantha, and flanked by Chelsea Pensioners.

Mr Miliband, meanwhile, has opted for a more personal touch. The Labour leader – who has faced criticism for struggling to connect with ordinary voters – sits at a table at his London home with wife Justine and their sons, five-year-old Daniel and Samuel, four.

But Liberal Democrat leader Mr Clegg and wife Miriam have joined the trend for "photoboothing". The couple are shown in a series of passport-style shots, with the Deputy Prime Minister donning a Santa hat before holding up a sign saying "Merry Christmas!".

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

DAVID Winnick knows a thing or two about liberty and freedom, so it was a surprise to hear him raise the prospect of fining people who don't turn out to vote.

The long-serving MP for Walsall North was responsible for Tony Blair's first Commons defeat on a whipped vote when, in 2005, he rebelled over Labour's planned 90-day detention 28 days without trial of terror suspects.

He put forward an amendment limiting it to 28 days and won. In a week when the CIA has been shamed for its use of torture and we were reminded that a British citizen is still in Guantanamo Bay 12 years after being detained, without a conviction, Mr Winnick must have been fully aware of the context of his proposal.

For while he is adamant that it is a democratic right to vote, what he wants the Commons to discuss in a 10-minute Rule Bill in January is the democratic right not to vote.

He proposes that it be made a civic obligation to vote, or at the very least make clear one's intention to abstain. Effectively then, being apathetic about politics would attract a fine.

Mr Winnick suggests something like the Australian system, where voting has been compulsory since the 1920s and turnout has been consistently above 90 per cent.

In Britain in 2010 it was 65 per cent. That was a slight improvement on 2005 but it meant one in three people did not bother to put anything on a ballot paper.

Even if they had scrawled 'none of the above' on their paper and spoiled it, that would still have counted as turning out.

In the elections for the West Midlands police and crime commissioner it was even more dire. Barely one in 10 registered a preference.

The Government had offered democratic accountability for people overseeing the police force and the electorate either did not understand what it was they were being offered or did not care.

Mr Winnick's worry is that, left unchecked, there will come a time when a government is elected and fewer than half the people had their say on it.

Anyone who cares about the democratic process would share that concern.

What Mr Winnick and his fellow MPs must address in their debate, however, is why it has come to this.

The argument that the parties are all the same no longer applies now that New Labour is over. There is an enormous difference between Labour and the Tories in terms of policy.

Yet among the leaders – Oxford graduates, career politicians etc – there isn't a fat lot. And it is also pretty rare in General Elections to see just those two parties on the ballot paper. People have plenty of choice. They just aren't using it.

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Family & Friends Announcements

HOW TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT
By email – j.jowett@expressandstar.co.uk
By email – a.roberts@expressandstar.co.uk
By Post – Express and Star/Cannock Chronicle, Queens Square, Cannock, WS11 1WA
BY Phone – 01543 465327, 01902 317878
Announcements must be supplied by 12noon on Monday For the same weeks publication.

CHRONICLE mna media

Please note: Whilst we make every effort to ensure safe return of your photographs, we do not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to photographs in transit.

Traders rewarded for their service

James Jenkins, The Chicken Stall

Tammy Lee, Pretty on the Inside

Jayne Brickley, Sheepcraft Yarns

THE waiting is over for traders after the winners of Cannock Chase's Best Independent Shops and Market Stalls 2014 were announced.

Winners of the local shop titles were three relative newcomers to the district's high streets – Caffe Del Nino in Cannock, Sheepcraft Yarns in Hednesford and Pretty on the Inside in Rugeley.

The winning market stalls were two very well established market traders – The Chicken Stall in Cannock's Indoor Market and Meat to Please You at Rugeley market. The competition asked people to vote for their favourite independent retailer over the last month, and the results were revealed by Prospective Conservative candidate for Cannock Chase Amanda Milling.

She announced who had been crowned winners as part of Small Business Saturday. "This competition was a small way of letting our local retailers know how much we appreciate and support them," she said.

"Here in Cannock Chase, we are really lucky to have many wonderful and unique independent shops who are the lifeblood of our communities. The competition was really close across all the categories but we have five very worthy winners. It is great to see such a range of different types of businesses win as well as the well-established and newcomers to our high streets.

"It was a real privilege to visit each of the winners and give them the good news and present them with their certificate. I'd also like to put on record my thanks to all of those who supported our independent retailers by voting in the competition."

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SALE SALE SALE

Bid to clear deficit is in tatters

THE Con/Dems' plan to clear the deficit by the next election is in tatters.

The deficit is expected to rise to around £100 billion this year. The more they cut, the bigger it gets.

The gap between spending and income is plugged by borrowing. This adds to a debt pile of £1.45tn, equal to 80 percent of national income. The interest paid on this national debt is £1bn a week.

George Osborne claims the economy is growing – with three percent predicted this year. But it took until 2014 for it to get back to 2008 pre-recession levels, the slowest ever post-war recovery.

I believe the actions of this government are a disgrace.

Instead of punishing ordinary people they should change plan and embark on a fairer policy of debt reduction, ensuring those who have the most pay the most.

P WITTON
Cannock

Rehab centre would be in wrong place

I READ with some consternation the report regarding the proposals for another drug rehabilitation centre in Cannock, this time in High Green, submitted by Burton Addiction Centre.

A bedsit centre for recovering addicts will be established in 81/83 High Green and a tea room next door at No 85.

If such a facility is required in Cannock, the location in High Green is totally inappropriate. Whatever may be claimed to the contrary, commonsense dictates that it will attract drug addicts to the area, whether for rehabilitation or simply as a meeting place.

It is too close to private homes, many of which are occupied by elderly persons who will find it an unpleasant experience to encounter addicts when walking into the town.

School children from the infant and junior schools in New Penkridge Road also pass this way, as do mothers attending the mother and toddler meetings in the library. The location is also close to the nightclubs and bars in the so-called cultural area of Cannock. Drugs and alcohol form a lethal cocktail. The whole area surrounding the college will become associated with drug usage and for the good reputation of Cannock it must not be permitted.

I believe that this building was built originally as four almshouses for the deserving poor – an ironic comedown, but perhaps in keeping with the town generally.

C COOPER
Cannock

Stop encouraging short-term work

WITH reference to the letter from Chris Plant, Director of Chase Commerce (December 11), while I agree in principle to looking for skilled people outside of the UK to fill posts in industry where a UK person cannot be found, I disagree with some of the practices of employers advertising the posts outside of the UK before they are advertised locally.

I also strongly object to the employers who encourage immigrants to come to the UK for seasonal jobs.

What happens to many of the immigrants when the fruit has been picked, and the crops gathered or Christmas is over and they are no longer required? Short-term labourers who will work for peanuts should not be encouraged, and the employer should be held responsible.

At the end of the day these practices only benefit the employers, and I respect the fact they have to make profits, but not in this immoral way.

ROY
Rugeley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Cannock Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Our police are stronger

WHAT a lack of common sense the legal system has in this country. A policeman accuses an MP of calling him a pleb and the ensuing court case has cost about £3 million.

I feel our West Midlands police must be made of sterner stuff than the London police as I would imagine on some occasions they are subject to far worse language than pleb.

Thank goodness we have a police force that can take it.

D WINWOOD
Cheslyn Hay

Post is so unreliable these days

LOVE the letter from Geoff Braden of the Post Office giving us advice about posting letters and parcels (December 11).

He should look a little closer to home. The post never arrives in Rawnsley before 1pm. I honestly believe the driver just brings out notes advising you to go to Cannock to fetch them, rather than deliver.

It has happened when we have been in the kitchen, heard a noise and a card is stuck in the letter box, but no-one knocked. Then you go to the sorting office, only to be told they cannot find your parcel and you should come back tomorrow.

We have had excellent posties who cared and gave a service but cutbacks have meant that has all gone and the poor postie laden down with bags ends up doing two or more rounds. Please sort out your own organisation before pointing out our mistakes in posting letters etc.

NEIL
Rawnsley

Get people back in work to cut deficit

GRAHAME Wiggin (December 11) implies that Gordon Brown left a debt of £750 billion.

Perhaps his comment about there being none so blind as those who will not see, may also apply to him? I would remind him that the above debt was in part due to the failure of the free market economy, and not all of Labour`s doing. Reckless greed and risk taking by the banks in the money markets he refers to nearly caused the economy to collapse.

And lots of taxpayers who bailed the banks out are having to suffer vicious cuts. The only way to fairly reduce the deficit is to get people in full-time work with a living wage. Spending money on this would increase tax receipts and make more economic sense, because continuous cuts to the most vulnerable people in society are not working.

PAUL WITTON
Cannock

Parties should come clean over spending

AFTER the Second World War, we were in debt to America.

In order to honour the debt, funds were diverted from highways and other needs and the debt has been cleared.

It would be interesting if all political parties that have been in power over the past five decades and including today's parties could show us what debts have been incurred without the people of the UK being notified or consulted on these matters or what deals have been done.

I believe all parties make wild promises which deep down they know they cannot fulfil in order to seduce the electorate into voting them into power.

ROBERT WESTWORTH
Rugeley

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all your Labour Councillors on Cannock Chase District Council

BRERETON & RAVENHILL WARD

Alan Dudson

HAGLEY WARD

Andy Lovell

Brian Bottomer

HEDNESFORD SOUTH WARD

Gordon Ball

Brian Gamble

CANNOCK EAST WARD

Christine Mitchell

Muriel Davis

Janos Toth

HEATH HAYES EAST & WIMBLEBURY WARD

Alison Spicer

Diane Todd

NORTON CANES WARD

Michael Holder

John Preece

Zaphne Stretton

CANNOCK NORTH WARD

Gordon Alcott

Frank Allen

Dennis Dixon

HEDNESFORD GREEN HEATH WARD

Bob Todd

George Adamson

WESTERN SPRINGS WARD

Carl Bennett

CANNOCK SOUTH WARD

John Kraujalis

Maureen Freeman

Paul Witton

HEDNESFORD NORTH WARD

Alan Pearson

Doris Grice

Sheila Cartwright

Vote Labour

For the Many not the Few

Promoted by John Kraujalis on behalf of Cannock Chase Labour Party at 55 Langdale Drive, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 1QU

Ladies help to serve up festive treat

SI Cannock & District

EACH Christmas, the Cannock & District branch of Soroptimis International gets involved in several projects to support others locally over the festive season.

One of these is the Christmas lunch at the Warming Welcome Soup Kitchen, at Mill Street Methodist Church.

A number of ladies from the church run the soup kitchen on a weekly basis throughout the year, providing a hot meal for those who otherwise wouldn't have one.

At the beginning of December club members, led by Soroptimist Carole Holdcroft, join them to provide a three-course Christmas lunch and tea and mince pies which is partly funded by the Soroptimist club.

This year was no exception – Carole and several other club members prepared, cooked and served a meal, complete with crackers and all the trimmings, to more than 50 people.

If the empty plates at the end were anything to go by, everyone thoroughly enjoyed their meal, said Cannock & District SI Press officer Trish Mellor.

Carols, jokes and a Christmas quiz

Jenny Dunn and vice chairman Barbara Matthews

Cannock & District Ladies Probus Club

THE Christmas lunch was attended by 54 members and eight guests who are waiting to be made members in the New Year.

Chairman Betty Howard-Evans welcomed them all and also sent wishes to those unable to attend.

The entertainment was from group member Jenny Dunn who entertained with carols and jokes and a Christmas quiz – the laughter filled the room at Chase Golf Club where the excellent lunch was served.

Grace was said by Audrey Hicklin and the chairman wished seven members celebrating in December a happy birthday. Betty Hunter makes beautiful cards and will send one to each birthday girl.

Donations made instead of Christmas cards were split between the Air Ambulance and St Giles Hospice.

Barbara Matthews gave the vote of thanks to Jenny and presented her with a cheque for her favourite charity. Del Johnson and Pauline Parlane have been selling craft cards and decorations and all the proceeds went to the Air Ambulance. Val Beale sold New Life jewellery with proceeds going to the New Life Foundation.

Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month but the club is unable to take guests until March. Anyone wishing to join should call 01543 505107 in February.

Back to 80s for party theme

Hayes Green WI

THE theme for Hayes Green WI's Christmas party was 'The Eighties' with some members in fancy dress, wearing clothes from the era.

The costumes were based on those worn by female celebrities from the decade as well as Adam Ant, Boy George and Ruth Madoc – as worn by the president, Sandy Hobbs. "Our singer and entertainment for the night was Keir Pedley, who was amazing," Sandy said.

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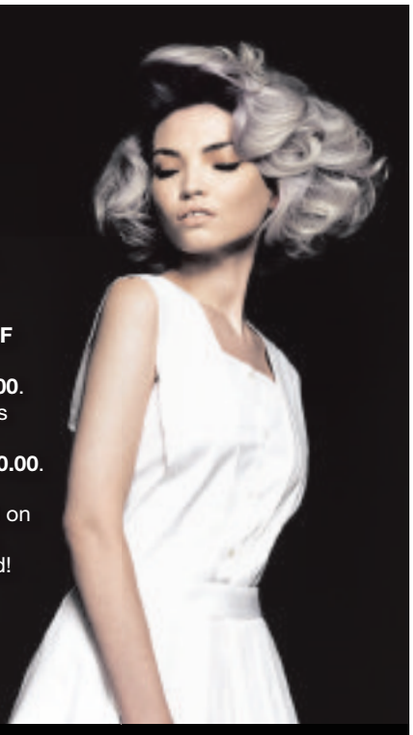

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Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Maddy brings a real carnival of music

Maddy Prior and The Carnival Band, Town Hall, Birmingham

WHEN it comes to putting on Christmas shows you would be hard pushed to top Maddy Prior and the Carnival Band with their Carols & Capers show.

With the band playing instruments which are not only unusual but have been specially made, some recreated from old drawings, and playing music, some of which is hundreds of years old, you have a good show without anything else. But throw in the unmistakable voice and presence of Maddy Prior and a choir with at least 50 voices and you have a festive display which is both, rich, diverse and incredibly impressive.

When she was not singing or taking a back seat to the Carnival Band, Prior expressively swished around the stage in flowing skirts to the music which was diverse, complex and thoroughly enjoyable.

There were tunes straight out of the middle ages, traditional carols such as God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen and not so traditional such as A Boy Was Born In Bethlehem.

There was tinsel-a-plenty and festive tunes from Europe and even one with animal masks and impersonations. All in all it was a night of great music and spectacle which keeps the musical traditions of the UK alive.

Danny Farragher

Rusby's mug full of festivities

Kate Rusby Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LOOKING like a Christmas humbug in her black and white hooped dress and with obligatory tea mug in hand she greeted the assembled Birmingham audience with a massive 'ello!

She then launched into the first of her Christmas songs with Here We Come a Wassailing.

If you have seen Rusby's Christmas show before then you know it's pretty much the same format as the previous year but of course this time there were a few songs from her latest album Ghost thrown in.

With her assembled band which includes hubby Damian O'Kane and a small, but impressive, brass section she sang a mixture of traditional carols such as Joy To The World, Little Town of Bethlehem, Diadem and various versions of While Shepherds Watch.

Rusbyinfects you with her enthusiasm for the season and no matter how many times you see her you leave her show full of Christmas cheer. **DF**

REVIEWS

Harmonising – Jersey Boys line-up

Oh, What a Night at musical rollercoaster

Jersey Boys Alexandra Theatre

IT was fast and furious and I loved it – as did the packed Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham.

This Jersey Boys rollercoaster took you on a wonderful journey as it told the story of four boys from the wrong side of the tracks who wrote their own songs, invented their unique sound, and sold 175 million records.

Featuring hit after hit including Beggin', Oh, What a Night, Sherry, Walk Like a Man, Bye Bye Baby and many more, Jersey Boys is a story full of heart, humour, and most importantly fantastic music.

Tim Driesen as Frankie Valli certainly has the voice for it. All telling their own stories throughout the show the four together – Sam Ferriday as Bob Gaudio, Lewis Griffiths as Nick Massi and Stephen Webb as Tommy DeVito – harmonised beautifully, almost bringing the audience to their feet just a third of the way through and of course up and dancing by the end.

This show runs until January 4. As a festive treat this is real gift.

Sue Attwater

Magic and Christmas anarchy

The Magical Christmas Tree Tour Newhampton Folk Club, Newhampton Inn

IT seems you can have anarchy at Christmas and still enjoy yourself and to prove the point Pete Morton, Emily Sanders and Chris Parkinson brought their show to the upper room of the Newhampton Inn, Whitmore Reans.

With clog dancing, Chaucerian rock 'n' roll, upside down, broom and eccentric dancing along with a rather world weary Christmas tree guiding proceedings, it all got a little merry and at times surreal.

But Morton on guitar and vocals, Sanders on fiddle and vocals and Parkinson on a variety of instruments, vocals and Father Jack impersonations brought a really manic sense of fun to proceedings.

Add to this, Parkinson slipping in all sorts of instrumental jokes while sitting in the corner on his piano accordion like a naughty schoolboy and it was a great way to go into the winter night with a smile on your face. **DF**

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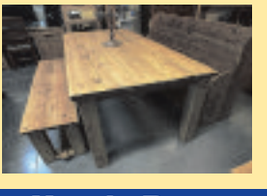

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Santas on the run for Newlife funds

Ready, Santa, go – some of the dozens of runners who took part in Cannock's fifth annual Santa Dash

A SEA of Santas took over Cannock town centre as part of a festive fundraising push.

Some 75 runners dressed in white-trimmed red Father Christmas outfits turned out on a frosty morning for the town's fifth annual Santa Dash.

Shoppers cheered them on as they arrived at the bandstand. It is hoped the event will raise more than £3,000 for children's charity Newlife.

Children who have been helped by the charity were among those taking part. One youngster, who is waiting for a wheelchair from Newlife, walked the one-mile route with his guide dog.

The race was won by veteran runner Alistair Payne, who owns the Bank Bar and Lounge in Cannock.

Philippa Gregory, the charity's deputy community fundraising manager, said: "The weather was perfect – cold but sunny with a fantastic blue sky.

"Lots of families signed up for the race, both young and old, and everyone did a really good job. Cannock Radio compered the event from the bandstand which created a great atmosphere. It was all very informal."

Others taking part included Hednesford Town's mascot Pitman Pete and teams from NHS Waistline Service, Great Wyrley Juniors FC and Bridgtown gym Optimal Sports Performance who organised the warm-up.

Amanda Milling, Prospective Conservative candidate for Cannock Chase, who also took part, said:. "I was thrilled to be able to join the runners in support of Newlife."Newlife recently revealed that demand for its services has risen steeply in the past year. The Cannock-based national charity, which provides practical support services for disabled and terminally ill children, handed over equipment grants worth more than £2 million in 2013-14 – a 33 per cent increase on the previous 12 months.

The proceeds from last year's run helped four Staffordshire children by providing specialist walkers for three and a standing frame for a fourth.

The route from Chase Leisure Centre took runners and walkers through the grounds and around Cannock park before heading for the bandstand in the town centre. Refreshments and goody bags were handed out at the Bank Bar and Lounge afterwards.

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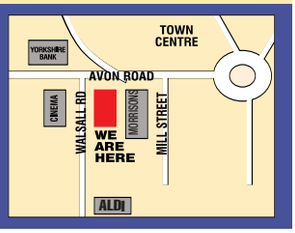

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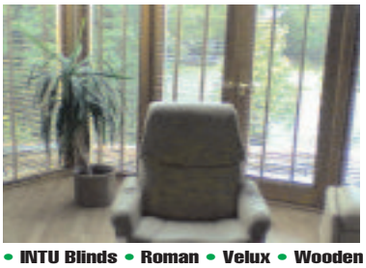

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JCB honours loyalty

ALMOST 6,000 years of combined service have been notched up by employees at JCB. The Staffordshire firm, which has a base in Rugeley, honoured its hundreds of long servers at two special lunches. They had worked for the company for between 20 and 45 years and each was also presented with a gift to mark the milestone. Among them this year were four employees who all started work on August 25, 1969 – the year man first landed on the moon. A further 16 employees marked 40 years' service and almost 250 were celebrating 20 years of working at the firm.

Pervert who 'lost his way' given court order

A PERVERT who targeted schoolgirls in Staffordshire and performed sexual acts in front of them was given a community order by a judge.

Driving his dirty yellow works van, James Gill loitered around areas where – and when – he knew that young girls would be on their own, Stafford Crown Court heard.

By Paul Davenport

On three separate occasions between July and October last year, he indecently exposed himself to schoolgirls in Rugeley.

The girls who saw him were shocked and terrified, said Mr Stefan Kolodynski, prosecuting.

Gill, aged 26, of Lichfield Drive, Great Haywood, admitted three charges of sexual activity in the presence of a child under 16.

Difficulties

He was given a three-year community order to undergo a sex offender treatment programme, ordered to register as a sex offender with the police for five years, banned from loitering near playgrounds, schools or leisure facilities and banned from unauthorised contact with children under 16.

Recorder Mr P R Cooke told him: "In the summer of this year you seem to have lost your way very significantly. You were going through financial difficulties, you were abusing cannabis and having relationship difficulties. But you completely lost the grip on sexual urges in spectacular fashion.

"You took yourself off in your works van to areas where you would find young girls. You did it, plainly, to derive sexual gratification. The effect has been to frighten them at an age when they should be enjoying pretty carefree lives. You haven't come clean with your own partner yet.

"You are going to have to confront that unpleasant reality," Mr Cooke added.

One of Gill's victims exercised her right to read out in person her victim impact statement in front of him. The 13-year-old, who cannot be identified by law, told him: "I have been scared to go out on my own in case this happens again.

"I thought you were going to kidnap us and kill us. I don't trust any men except my dad and my granddad.

"That's all your fault. You have destroyed a long-standing friendship – thanks for that."

Mr Kolodynski said the offences took place on July 29, September 22 and October 12.

On the last occasion , the father of one of his victims went around the town looking for a dirty yellow van and took down Gill's registration number. He was arrested the next day.

Mr Neil Gerrity, defending, said: "He is,rightly, ashamed and embarrassed by his conduct. This is a first step to getting help and making sure this never happens again."

Go Ape workers help raise £60k for cancer trust

STAFF at Go Ape throughout the UK, including Cannock Chase, went bananas to support Teenage Cancer Trust, raising a grand total of £60,000 for the charity.

Go Ape staff from the 28 sites across the country devised the Big Banana Relay to raise funds.

The relay consisted of a Big Banana being transported 1,823 miles across the UK with the Go Ape gorillas using the quirkiest forms of travel possible.

The relay got underway at Leeds Castle and the 'Big Banana' travelled to each of the Go Ape UK sites finishing up in Trent Park.

The Cannock Chase team took the giant inflatable banana on a cycling adventure to reach its next destination on the relay route of Go Ape Delamere, near Chester.

The first mode of transport saw the banana leave the Cannock Chase site with the blue flashing lights of a fire engine, courtesy of Rugeley fire station.

The fire engine transported the banana four miles into the journey before the cycling got under way.

The team then travelled by tricycle, bicycle, mountain board, unicycle and on a mini monkey bicycle with the banana in tow for the ride.

Fair brings in £1.5k for school's funds

Kerry Jones from the school kitchen at the Christmas fair held at Moat Hall Primary School, Great Wyrley

A CHRISTMAS fair in Great Wyrley with a Frozen theme raised a cool £1,500 for school funds.

Traditional stalls including a bottle stall, luxury tombola, guess the weight of the cake, and name the reindeer were featured at the event at Moat Hall Primary School.

A grand raffle with a first prize of £100 contributed to the total amount of money raised.

All of the children at the school made items to sell at the fair, and Father Christmas dropped in to say hello.

Gas probe at homes

NATIONAL Grid engineers visited 140 homes in Huntington affected by low gas pressure. Residents called the company to alert them to the problem. Sixty engineers were temporarily based in the village. Jane Taylor of National Grid said: "The problem has now been sorted."

Top officers will be put on spot by residents

SENIOR police officers will be grilled by the residents they serve as part of new 'people panels' in parts of Staffordshire.

Cannock and South Staffordshire have been chosen to trial the new bodies, known as Safer Neighbourhood Panels, as part of a scheme to make police officers more accountable to the people they serve.

Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis is rolling out the programme early next year in Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire, and Staffordshire Moorlands, with a view to expand it across the entire county later in the year.

The panels will be made up of around a dozen residents and will also have input from magistrates and councillors.

By Rob Golledge

Connected

Mr Ellis said: "This is part of my drive for greater transparency and openness and means residents will directly be able to hold those responsible for policing their streets to book.

"These panels will be serious and take place with front line commanders and act as a sounding board for how policing should be done.

"This will make communities better connected than at any time in the last 20 years." The panels will meet every two to three months and will have the ability to shape how they operate – with the potential to create sub-panels.

The appointment process will start early in the new year.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williams said: "I think this is really positive news."

George Adamson, leader of Cannock Chase Council, said: "We were very keen on working in partnership and wanted to get in first so made an enthusiastic bid to bring this panel to Cannock Chase.

"This move will bring the police closer to the community which we welcome."

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Brereton artist Robert Bridgstock with some of his work

Exhibition highlights beauty of the Chase

WITH every beautiful brushstroke, wonderful wildlife and luminous landscapes have been captured on canvas.

These moods of nature are the work of self-taught artist Robert Bridgstock, with many scenes inspired by Cannock Chase. Now his artwork – 41 oil paintings and prints – are taking pride of place on display at Chasewater Innovation Centre until January 2.

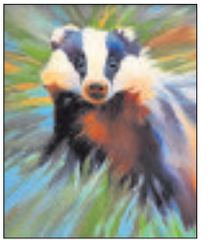
The grandfather painted the landscapes and animals, including deer and badgers, from photographs he took on the Chase.

Retired graphic designer Mr Bridgstock, aged 68, of Coalpit Mews, Brereton, said: "I've been painting seriously since 2005. There are 41 pieces of artwork on display. Most of them are oil paintings but five or six of them are prints.

"Each painting probably took about three days, sometimes slightly more. They are based on my own photography and are a mixture of landscapes and animals.

"There are scenes from the summer, spring, and snow scenes. It's all through the year. The moods of nature are so inspiring, so to be able to paint what I see is a wonderful expression of my emotions.

"Since I was a boy, the light, colour and form in nature has always intrigued me, and now as I look around, it can so often leave me breathless with wonder and awe.



The Surrey Badger

Fisherman on the Rocks

The Oldest Oak at Sunset

Celebration

"When I was very young, I remember watching a lady with her easel painting a landscape, and I felt this strange powerful fascination pass through me. I have never lost that feeling.

"From an early age it seems I have spent a lifetime watching the sun rise, walking amongst trees and watching wildlife, not only during the day but also the night.

"I have sometimes felt a part of the great celebration. When most boys my age were on street corners or off to dances, I was lost in a wood somewhere.

"I have a fascination for colour, for painting and feeling it with a brush.

"The paintings in the exhibition are original, and they have all been varnished and framed."

The paintings, which vary in size with the largest 60cm by 80cm, are priced between £15 and £250. Bright blues, oranges and yellows and greens were used to create a painting of a badger.

Another of the colourful paintings shows an old oak tree at sunset on Cannock Chase, while broken silver birches lie across each other in another picture of the beauty spot. Other scenes have captured fishermen on the rocks and a lone walker in the Lake District.

Mr Bridgstock added: "Although I have worked in watercolour and acrylics, I now prefer using oil on canvas. Landscape is my main passion. I am keen on photography and walk in Cannock Chase forest at least weekly, so all my landscapes and animals are based on my own photos.

"I feel the pricing is very reasonable. Some of them are quite large. I did the same thing at Chasewater Innovation Centre about two years ago. I took homes about five pictures from 36. It was very successful."

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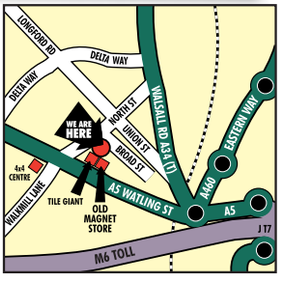

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Shadow minister at college

SHADOW Education Minister Stephen Twigg took part in a Q and A session when he visited the Cannock campus of South Staffordshire College.

He was joined Labour's Parliamentary candidate for Cannock Chase Janos Toth.

Mr Twigg answered questions from students as well as delivering the message that Labour would focus on getting young people into work as a key way of bringing down the deficit.

"It was brilliant to visit South Staffordshire College with Janos Toth today," he said. "Labour is committed to getting young people into work and driving down the deficit. It was great to hear the views of young people.

Mr Toth said: "It was great to bring Stephen Twigg here today to hear what local young people in Cannock Chase have to say.

"Giving young people opportunities is one of my top priorities.

"I want young people to achieve their ambitions and reach their full potential."

County schools are showing steady progress

PRIMARY and secondary schools across Staffordshire are making steady improvements, Ofsted's annual report reveals. But the document shows that across the country the gap is widening between secondaries and primaries.

The overall number of good or outstanding schools in the county has increased compared to a year ago. Now 77 per cent of primaries are good or outstanding – up by six per cent. Staffordshire is now ranked 107 out of 150 local authorities.

Meanwhile, 72 per cent of secondaries are good or outstanding – a rise of four per cent on last year. Staffordshire is ranked 92 out of 150.

It was a case of 'as you were' for primary schools in Staffordshire as the authority remained in 104th place in the national league table.

However, achievement in reading, writing and maths rose by two per cent, with a total of 77 per cent of pupils taking Key Stage 2 exams achieving Level 4 in reading writing and maths.

Among the county's success stories was Chancel Primary in Rugeley. The school was named top of the pile in Staffordshire after improving on last year's 16th spot.

Successful

All 26 pupils who took reading and maths tests and the writing assessment gained at least Level 4. The school also boasted a high average points score of 32.1.

Colwich CofE Primary School in Stafford also had a successful year, with all 20 Key Stage 2 pupils achieving Level 4 in the three key assessments. Pupils at the school recorded an average points mark of 33.2. The school was beaten into second place only because it had fewer pupils taking tests than Chancel.

Anson CofE Primary in Great Haywood was another of the county's schools where all eligible pupils achieved Level 4 in reading writing and maths.

Tin Man now has a date with fame

Quirky – the Tin Man traffic island in Brownhills

IT is 'an oasis in a sea of Tarmac' dominated by a shiny 30ft high sculpture of a miner standing tall over a former colliery. And now the roundabout at the end of Brownhills High Street has achieved cult status by being named runner-up in a poll of Britain's 10,000 traffic islands.

The 'Tin Man' roundabout, as it is known to locals, will feature as 'November' in the worldwide selling calendar Best of British Roundabouts 2015. The five-ton, £70,000 artwork, features a giant metal sculpture of a 19th Century miner holding a lamp and pick. The artwork commemorates the pitmen who worked in the town for three centuries before the last Brownhills mine closed.

Its new quirky status has been bestowed by the UK Roundabout Appreciation Society.

Kevin Beresford, its president, said: "I personally feel this terrific traffic island perfectly sums up what is so charming about the great British one-way gyratory." Walsall's mayor Pete Smith described it as a wonderful accolade.

Tuneful onesies

MUSICIANS practised in their onesies to raise money for new leather-style music folders. Wind band conductor Tim Farmer encouraged members of Cannock Performing Arts to rehearse in their all-in-one nightwear, with more than £300 raised.

Swimmers raise cash

PUPILS at a Rugeley primary school have raised almost £1,000 for Children In Need after taking part in a sponsored swim.

The fundraiser was organised by teaching assistants Gill Seddon and Jan Aston from Chancel Primary School, and 18 pupils swam 64 lengths, the equivalent of one mile.

The swimmers were between eight and 11, and seven pupils completed the 64 lengths while others took part in a relay to complete the course between them.

'Mystery' users can help shape services

THE Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust is appealing to local service users, patients and carers aged 18 years and above to volunteer and become part of the mystery user and carer programme. Volunteers will be asked to spare a short period of time after they have used a service to evaluate their experience to help ensure patient experience is accurately assessed across the trust.

Interim director of nursing and quality Rose Goodwin said: "Anyone who has recently used services provided by the trust can volunteer their time and help make a difference to their local health and social care services."

The programme asks volunteers to complete a short questionnaire, openly and honestly, following contact with the trust. Volunteers must be over 18 years old, apatient, service user or carer, and live in Staffordshire.

Anyone interested in being a volunteer shouldcall 0300 123 1161 or email userandcarerexperience@ssotp.nhs.uk

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Workers' joy at £250k for charities

Employees at ZipVit in Rugeley celebrate raising more than £250,000 in five years for various charities

A Rugeley firm is celebrating after its donation to Macmillan took the total raised for various charities to more than £250,000 in five years.

ZipVit, based at the Towers Business Park, raised the cash for Macmillan by offering its customers placing orders over £25 the opportunity of a free gift or the company making a £1 donation to the charity. The company's £36,534 donation to Macmillan will help fund its vital work supporting people with cancer and their families.

Macmillan's fundraising manager Debbie Rushbrooke said: "This is a significant donation and we are extremely grateful to everyone at ZipVit for their fantastic support."

Hospital move date set

PATIENTS will start moving from New Cross Hospital to Cannock a month later than expected.

Bosses implementing the move say Wolverhampton patients will have non-emergency surgery in Cannock from February 9.

Work is still ongoing to bring Cannock up to scratch with new operating theatres and other services being built.

The delay is to cater for other changes to acute surgery affecting New Cross from County Hospital in Stafford and to allow enough time for the Cannock refurbishment to be completed.

Buses will ferry patients between the two hospitals – a move criticised by patients and health officials. Chief operating officer Gwen Nuttall said: "We'll have everything up and running in February. Everything is on track."

Bosses have admitted the public consultation into the transferwas not clear enough, leading to patients being confused about what changes were being made.

Gwen Nuttall

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Tues 23rd Dec	Mon 22nd Dec
Weds 24th Dec (Christmas Eve)	Tues 23rd Dec
Thurs 25th Dec (Christmas Day)	Wed 24th Dec (Christmas Eve)
Fri 26th Dec (Boxing Day)	Sat 27th Dec

Normal Collection Day...	Will be collected on...
Mon 29th Dec	Mon 29th Dec
Tues 30th Dec	Tues 30th Dec
Weds 31st Dec (New Years Eve)	Wed 31st Dec (New Years Eve)
Thurs 1st Jan 2015 (New Years Day)	Fri 2nd Jan 2015
Fri 2nd Jan 2015	Sat 3rd Jan 2015

Normal collections will recommence on
Monday 5th January 2015

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Daisy reunited with her old teddy

Daisy Jewkes with mother Nicola, her teddy and Carillion traffic safety control officer Paul Rowton

DAISY Jewkes was left devastated when her teddy bear flew out of the car window as her family travelled along the M6 near Cannock.

But diligent workmen retrieved the treasured toy from the central reservation – and reunited the delighted four-year-old with her precious 'old teddy'.

Little Daisy thought the brown bear was gone forever after dropping it from the back seat window of her parents' car while travelling through roadworks. She cried out as she lost her grip of the bear, before her mother Nicola agonisingly watched it fall onto the central reservation of the highway, as the family drove back home to Brierley Hill after a family visit to Scotland.

Not giving up hope, Mrs Jewkes, 36, emailed the Highways Agency to look out for the bear. A week later, they responded to say they had found the bear and wanted to return it. Daisy was reunited with the teddy, and its attached blanket, on her fourth birthday at construction company Carillion's offices in Cannock.

Mrs Jewkes, a legal secretary, said: "I couldn't believe it, and neither could Daisy. She was completely overwhelmed, her face lit up when she got the bear back in the hands.

"She was crying her eyes out after she lost it, and despite her having other bears, it was 'old teddy' she wanted."

David Smith, a manager at Carillion, washed the teddy bear before arranging for Daisy to collect it.

The girl wrote a letter of thanks to the company. Mr Smith said: "I got the email and asked the guys to look out for it, within days we found it in the central reservation. It was dirty, but after a wash it was perfect again."

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Fire crews rescue dog

A DOG was rescued from a blaze involving an outhouse in Burntwood. Fire crews were called to a property in Woodford Crescent and rescued the animal after smashing a window. It is thought the fire was caused accidentally by hot ash blowing onto a wooden outbuilding, which was destroyed. Crew commander Chris Gaunt, of Lichfield fire station, said: "We believe the lady of the house took ashes out of her fire and put them in a container outside but they blew into the outhouse. The lady went out and neighbours called when they saw smoke."

Armed gang turned up at 'wrong address'

MASKED raiders burst into a house in Cannock and attacked a man with lump hammers, a court heard.

By Paul Davenport

The four-to-six-strong gang bundled Simon White into another room of the house in Middleway, away from his wife, and demanded 'Where's the money?'

Mr White, who has no criminal connections, resisted as long as he could before crying out 'Enough, enough' at which point his tormentors fled empty-handed.

They were driven away from the scene by university student Lancelot Liscombe, who had been roped in by the gang, a jury at Stafford Crown Court ruled.

Liscombe, aged 19, of Colley Avenue, Wolverhampton, was convicted of attempted robbery after a trial last month. He was sentenced to two years in young offender custody – suspended for 18 months – and ordered to do 150 hours unpaid community work.

Forced

Recorder Professor Martin Wasik told him: "You were involved in driving a number of other people in your own car to an address you didn't know.

"The other people got out, put on disguises and forced an entry in to the premises where householder Mr White was attacked with a weapon and his partner held in a different room while her husband was assaulted.

"At the time, the men were repeatedly asking Mr White for money. I remember from the trial it was never established what the motive was. It may be the case they got the wrong address.

"Mr and Mrs White had no previous connection with any criminal nor was there any reason why they had been targeted in this way. It was a nasty assault, it must have been a horrible experience. I am sure it was accepted by the jury your sole role was to drive the men to that address, you were not part of the initial plan, I suspect you became involved at a late stage."

The judge said he recognised the suspended sentence was lenient, but not unduly lenient.

Mr Michael Grey, prosecuting, said Liscombe was linked to the crime after blood was found on the driver's seat of his car which matched Mr White's DNA.

The attack took place in the early hours of August 14 last year and the defendant was arrested a short time later when police stopped his car. "Mr White was there badly injured, but not seriously injured. He had received a beating that left him with a cut to his head and bruising to the back," said Mr Grey.

None of the other intruders, who were armed with short-handled lump hammers, has been caught.

Mr Anthony Bell, defending, said: "He is not a man you would expect to be involved in this.

"He is of previous good character, hard-working, a student looking to better himself in legitimate ways."

Cannock Chase highlighted in tourism drive

THE Culture Secretary Sajid Javid declared Staffordshire has plenty to be proud of as he banged the drum for local tourism during a visit to Cannock Chase.

Mr Javid met with bosses from attractions including Drayton Manor to explore how tourism could be given a further boost. During 2012, the sector was worth more than £1 billion to the county, with almost 25 million people paying a visit.

He said the Government was working hard to convince overseas visitors to broaden their horizons further than London.

Mr Javid said: "Tourism businesses in Staffordshire are doing a great job, bringing in £96 million a month for the local economy and sustaining tens of thousands of jobs.

"Beautiful places with great attractions like Cannock Chase are a great draw for visitors but there is still more we can do.

"I want more international tourists to explore areas outside of London. Staffordshire has so much to offer people from around the world who visit Britain."

Staffordshire County Council's economy and environment chief Mark Winnington said: "Staffordshire has a rich tapestry of visitor attractions to be proud of."

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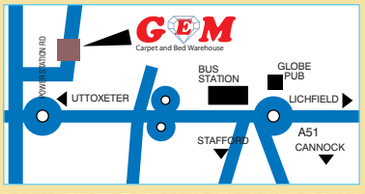

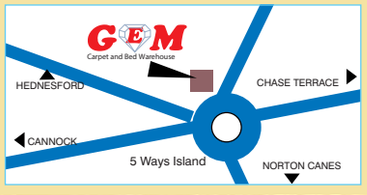

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Public Notice

£69,950

504 Kingswood Road, Nuneaton, CV10 8QQ. By order of the Mortgagee in possession, we would advise you that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of Seventy Thousand Pounds (£70,000.00). Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the selling agents of their best offer either prior to exchange or within the next 7 days which ever is sooner. Bairstow Eves, 11 Newdegate Street, Nuneaton, CV11 4EJ Tel: 024 7634 5051

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Bairstow Eves Countrywide (Acocks Green) are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £163,000.00 for 69 Solihull Lane, Birmingham, B28 9LT. Anyone wishing to submit an offer for this property should contact Bairstow Eves Countrywide (Acocks Green), 1180 Warwick Road, Birmingham, B27 6BS, 0121 706 6203 before exchange of contracts.

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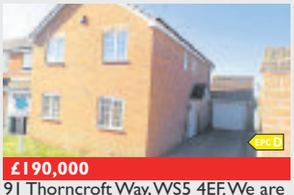

£190,000

91 Thorncroft Way, WS5 4EF. We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £175,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

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- End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master
- Allocated Parking

Shoppers help needy

GENEROUS shoppers have ensured the needy in Cannock get some festive spirit this Christmas.

Traders on the town's indoor market set up a table asking for food donations to be collected by St Luke's Church, bagged up and distributed in time for Christmas Day.

Anne Franks, who runs the Eye Browse book stall, said customers and fellow traders had shown their goodwill by bringing in tinned and non-perishable goods.

"People don't have the money they used to, but they've all been very generous," she said.

Fundraising page set up for hit-run victim Joe

FRIENDS of suspected hit-and-run victim Joseph Hunt have started raising money in his memory – with donations almost reaching £3,000 in the first four days.

Mr Hunt was discovered by passers-by on a footpath in Western Springs Road, Rugeley, earlier this month. Police arrested an 18-year-old man in connection with the incident and he has since been released on bail pending further inquiries.

Joseph Hunt – tributes

Mr Hunt's old school friend Josh Dunning has now set up a Facebook page where people have been leaving tributes and also a fundraising website.

The money will help to pay for a special memorial at the home of Wolves, Molineux, as Mr Hunt was a huge fan.

Some of the cash will also be spent on an ornament to be placed on his grave and the rest will be handed over to Mr Hunt's family.

Memories

Mr Dunning, who attended Cardinal Griffin High School in Cannock with Mr Hunt, who was just 22, said: "I started the Facebook page to get everyone together in one place and then I set up the fundraising page.

"We wanted to pay for some sort of tribute to Joe at Wolves and also to buy something to put on his grave."

He added: "In a day and a half we managed to raise £2,500.

"We're also asking people to email us their memories and any pictures of Joe and we will give it to the family," Mr Dunning said.

Staffordshire Police is still investigating the crash.

A Skoda Fabia was recovered from near to where Mr Hunt died and it was taken away for a detailed forensic examination.

After his death, relatives paid tribute to Mr Hunt saying he was a much-loved son and brother, who was known by many people and loved by all.

He was discovered with serious head injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Scores of tributes have been left on the Go Get Funding page.

One of the tributes, from Maddie Price, said: "Joe you will be missed by many, its lovely to see how many friends you have getting together to remember the good times. Rest in Peace."

To donate, go to www.gogetfunding.com/project/rip-joe-hunt#/project_details

Pledge on £34m new bus fleet as fares to rise 5pc

HIGHER bus fares will help pay for a new £34 million fleet of buses in the West Midlands region, bosses say.

National Express has announced increases of around five per cent for most of its journeys. The changes, with effect from January 2, will see adult single tickets rise from £2.10 to £2.20.

A daysaver ticket goes up 20p to £4.20 while weekly travelcards will cost £16.50 – up 50p. Monthly travelcards will increase by £1.50 a month.

Other increases include a child single fair which has risen 5p to £1.10 and a child four-week travelcard which has gone up 75p to £29.25.

However, some fares have been frozen, including a family daysaver ticket.

Bosses said bus travel in the West Midlands was still 'great value' when compared to driving and parking.

National Express West Midlands managing director Peter Coates said: "These changes will allow us to invest a record amount on new buses next year, deliver new state-of-the-art services such as Platinum and roll out our London style smartcard." The £34m will be spent on 171 new British-built buses including 58 two-tone grey and black Platinum vehicles.

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The Grand Theatre opened on December 10, 1894 with this impressive frontage

1920s audience fill the stalls and balcony

Giant crown in honour of the Queen's Coronation in 1953

So Grand – 120 years on and city theatre is still packing them in

Patriotic - flying the flag at the Grand

IT all began shortly before 6pm on December 10, 1894, when the Grand Theatre opened its doors for the very first time.

Crowds swarmed to Lichfield Street to see the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company perform Gilbert and Sullivan's Utopia Limited, and history was made.

It had taken just six months to build but, remarkably, the theatre has stood for 120 years. It has seen off other theatres, trends and recessions and is more popular now than ever.

Not bad for something which was only expected to last 20 or 30 years. And equally not bad for a building which, quite literally, didn't have any foundations.

"Back then, the lifespan of a theatre was just 20 or 30 years," said current chief executive of the Grand, Pete Cutchie. "They thought it wouldn't last, or would maybe be moved elsewhere, but it's stood the test of time.

"There are foundations at the back of the building now, but there are no foundations under the front part of the building.

"It was built on demolished farm buildings – it's amazing that we're still here."

Prolific and well-respected architect Charles J Phipps designed the famous old building, which was constructed by Wolverhampton's Henry Gough. The cost? Just £10,000.

And the theatre began life as it meant to go on, with Utopia Limited a roaring success. Not everything remained intact that night though. A pair of opera glasses – which reappeared after being donated to the theatre five years ago for a 115-year anniversary celebration – were stolen.

Nine-year-old Tom Latham pocketed the glasses as a lasting memory of the first curtain-up at the theatre where he would later work as stage manager for 35 years.

Mr Latham's granddaughter, Elaine Mullett, said of the cheeky theft: "He was a bit naughty and wanted a little piece of history to keep because he fell in love with the place on that opening night.

"He queued on his own for hours and hours. He was just mesmerised by it – the noise and the colour."

Nowadays, the Grand is very much Wolverhampton's primary theatre but in its early days it had strong competition.

MEMORY LANE

By Tim Spiers

Recognise

The Empire Palace Theatre, later known as The Hippodrome, was built in 1898 in Queen Square and there was the Prince of Wales Theatre in Bilston Street.

The Theatre Royal had previously been Wolverhampton's main theatre, but closed in the same month the Grand opened. Despite so many changes around it, the Grand itself hasn't changed a huge amount in 120 years.

Mr Cutchie said: "If Phipps came back now he'd recognise the frontage, apart from the fact the shops are missing and he'd vaguely recognise the foyer. And as for the auditorium itself – nothing has changed."

The theatre held up to 2,400 people, double its capacity in 2014.

As Louise Walker, the Grand's creative learning manager and also unofficial historian, explains, people were crammed in – and segregated accordingly.

"The Grand was brought about by a need for high-class, civilised theatre for the folk of Wolverhampton," she said. "It was segregated in the same way as the social structure at the time. You had your working class people at the top and the whole thing was double the capacity it is now.

"Of course there was no TV or radio so this was a main form of entertainment and probably quite affordable for most people."

The theatre quickly established itself and soon attracted star names.

Sir Henry Irving, the greatest Victorian actor of his day, appeared in four plays in the early 20th century. Some Grand actors who later became huge names were relative unknowns then, including Charlie Chaplin.

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Gardening volunteers required at campus

GREEN-FINGERED volunteers are needed at a site in Penkridge .

The Horticulture Department at South Staffordshire College is encouraging anyone interested in gardening to become a volunteer at the 180-hectare Rodbaston Campus.

Sarah Davies, head gardener, is looking for people to work on all aspects of the upkeep of the gardens, including ground maintenance, pruning, watering, weeding, digging garden beds, planting a variety of flowers and shrubs, potting-on, propagation, seeding, mowing lawns and landscape construction.

Volunteers will also have the opportunity to work in the formal gardens, the arboretum and walled garden, a variety of vegetable plots, an area of themed landscape sections and large scale glasshouses.

She said: "Volunteers will receive expert advice from the South Staffordshire College Estates team and can go on to acquire accredited NPTC certification if they desire, at a discounted price.

"We will provide on-the-job training as part of the volunteer experience, including training on the use of hedge cutters, mowers and strimmers, with certificates available to take away." For further details call 07917 073324.

Victorian market our best ever, say event organisers

ORGANISERS of the Penkridge Victorian Christmas Market were delighted by the success of this year's event, saying it was their best year ever, with more than 100 stall holders and 6,000-plus people attending.

The evening event consisted of a wide selection of craft stalls, food and plenty of entertainment.

Attractions included a choir, stilt walker, fun fair and Father Christmas.

Matt Williams, manager of Penkridge Market, said: "The Victorian Christmas Market just goes from strength to strength each year.

"This year we had more traders, more people and even the weather was on our side, which always helps.

Thrilled

"It was extremely busy from the moment we opened at 5pm, and continued to stay busy right until the end of the event at 9pm," Mr Williams added.

The Victorian Christmas Market is an annual event, and the organisers say they are thrilled that it seems to be growing more and more popular each year.

Anne Geoghegan, organiser of the market, said: "It's always a fantastic event and truly marks the start of the festive season here in Penkridge.

"The market was buzzing and there was a great atmosphere – all of the stall-holders were dressed in Victorian Costumes and the whole site felt very Christmassy."

The market is located in the centre of Penkridge, seven miles from Stafford; seven miles from Cannock and 10 miles from Wolverhampton and is easily accessible from the A449, A5 and M6 (junction 12).

Parking and admission are free.

For further information about the market, call 01785 714221 or log on to the website www.penkridgemarket.co.uk

By Simon Stone

More than 100 stall holders and 6,000-plus people were at the Penkridge Victorian Christmas Market

Dentists is named the best in region

THE Priors Dental Practice in Penkridge has been named Best in the Midlands.

The private practice has been recognised as providing the best patient care in the Midlands region.

It collected the accolade at the Dentistry Awards ceremony in Leicester.

Principal dentist/owner Dr Mark Emms said: "We are absolutely thrilled the practice has been chosen as the winner of this award.

"The very positive feedback from all our patients, combined with our team's commitment to excellent patient and customer care, has resulted in this prestigious award. We have been successful in developing a supportive and informative patient experience."

Dr Emms said all the practice's specialities are 'under one roof''. "This allows us to co-ordinate care of each patient to reduce the time, stress and cost that could otherwise be involved," he added.

Dr Emms said he would like to thank all staff for their 'commitment to service excellence'.

"We are very grateful to our patients for taking the time to share their fantastic feedback, which really gave us something to shout about in our award entry," he said.

The practice specialises in implant and orthodontics services.

Wishing all the residents of Cannock Chase and Rugeley a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the coming year.

Amanda MILLING

Parliamentary Candidate for Cannock Chase & Rugeley

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Pupils on the ball in training scheme

Chase View Primary School pupils with Ashley Hodgkins from the Albion Foundation at the end of the course

YEAR 5 pupils from Chase View Primary School in Rugeley developed their leadership skills through sport by taking part in the Albion Ambassadors Programme.

The course, delivered over 12 weeks, was organised by Dave Lawrence and Ashley Hodgkins from the West Bromwich Albion Foundation and focussed on teaching the children how to be better citizens as they grow into young adults, how to be leaders in their own community by organising games and activities, and being mediators for younger children.

Each session began with an 'ice breaker' activity followed by a classroom session focussing on one of the areas of good and bad leaders, communication, teamwork, organising and planning, compromise and confidence. After recording notes in their journal the children then went outside under the guidance of the leaders to use the skills they had learned by planning and organising games and activities.

At the end of the 12 weeks everyone who had completed the course was awarded with a pen and T-shirt.

Albion Ambassadors has formed a part of an ongoing relationship between the school and the Albion Foundation, and the same children will now take part in the Active Albion programme, during which they will learn about healthy lifestyles.

Public set to play a part in choosing police chief

THE public will play a role in appointing a new Staffordshire Chief Constable for the first time ever, it has been revealed.

Members of the public will be able to quiz candidates for the top job, with the Police and Crime Commissioner planning public debates as part of the recruitment process.

Matthew Ellis says he wants a 'rounded' Chief Constable who can interact with the public.

"This will be the first time this has been done, and I think it is essential we have a rounded and engaging Chief Constable who the public can interact with and have faith in.

"I have been thinking for some time about the recruitment process and what I do want is that public interaction.

"So I am looking at have a debate or debates where the candidates will face questions from the public.

"There will be no vote – this is not a gimmick – and the final decision will still be mine.

"But this is something I believe in and is totally changing the way the most senior police officer in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is appointed." Police and Crime Commissioners were handed the power to hire and fire Chief Constables when they were introduced in 2012.

Matthew Ellis – 'questions'

The Chief Constable position at Staffordshire is vacant after Mike Cunningham joined Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in the summer.

Deputy Chief Constable Jane Sawyers is acting Chief Constable and is understood to be interested in applying for the job. Mr Ellis has previously praised Mrs Sawyers who has been at the force since 1984.

But she could face disciplinary action over the botched murder probe into the death of amateur footballer Kevin Nunes that led to convictions being quashed.

A report into the conduct of 14 former and serving Chief Constables is currently with Mr Ellis.

Welcome

The Crown Prosecution Service has already ruled there will be no criminal charges over the debacle.

The salary for Staffordshire's Chief Constable is around £140,000.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson said: "This is an incredibly innovative idea and one the public will welcome.

"The appointment of top police officers is often seen as behind closed doors affair. "This will lead to a better Chief Constable being appointed and it is good to see a PCC being so innovative and doing things not done before. I give full credit to Matthew Ellis."

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Your claim will be dealt with on A NO WIN NO FEE BASIS by a qualified solicitor and we shall ensure that you get everything you are entitled to.

Personal Injury

Family & Friends Announcements

"Got Ya" "Just Married" "5 Today" "Love You"

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Happy 1st birthday to our very special little girl
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XXX

CHRONICLE mna media

By Post – Express and Star/Cannock Chronicle Queens Square, Cannock, WS11 1WA

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BY Phone – 01543 465327 01902 317878

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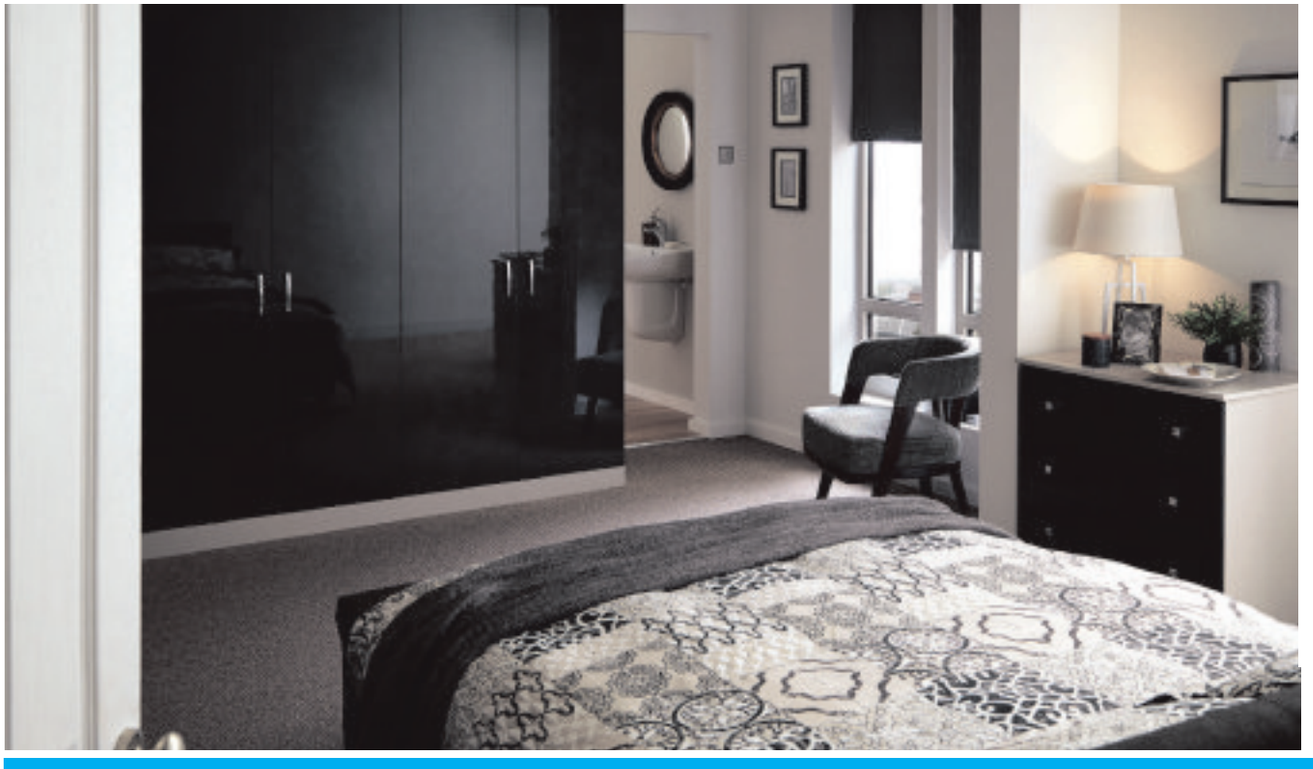
based on guide layout below, excludes fitting & survey fee



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- ✓ 15 year guarantee

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Representative APR19.9% Please take a moment to read our terms and conditions. *All discounts/prices apply to furniture only excluding fitting, survey, appliances and accessories. *Sale discount on all sale bedrooms in the January Sale. Min bedroom spend £1500. All prices quoted exclude survey & fit fee. Guide Layout 2 x 500mm single wardrobes, 2 x 500mm bedside cupboards, 2 x 500mm single cupboards, 1 x 600mm kneehole pelmet. All discounts/prices apply to furniture only, excludes appliances, accessories, and fitting. Representative example based on Isabella bedroom - loan amount £1,622 and total amount payable £3,197 with a £99 deposit. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Thank you

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- ✓ Over 50 designs to choose from
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Representative example based on Pasadena kitchen - loan amount £3,114 and total amount payable £6,047 with a £99 deposit. Appliance offer subject to minimum furniture spend (excludes fitting) of £4000. Spend £4000 for £500 worth of free appliances. Spend £5000 for £750 free appliances, £6500 for £1000, £8000 for £1500 and £9000 for £2000. Thank you

star extra TRAVEL

STAR EXTRA TRAVEL, the travel department of the Express & Star, offers a wide range of short breaks and holidays. For your security, our tour operators are members of ABTA – the Travel Association and hold an ATOL (Air Travel Organisers Licence) for holidays by air. Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please note Star Extra Travel is unable to take bookings over the telephone. Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability.

Riviera Travel is just one of our tour operator partners. Established for over 30 years they offer fully escorted tours to a number of countries near and far.

Destinations are carefully selected with each holiday featuring a comprehensive itinerary ensuring travellers see the very best the country has to offer. These are further enchanced by experienced tour managers who accompany passengers throughout the whole trip.

Here are just three holidays taken from their 2015 brochure.

Rivera Travel – ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430

Pompeii, Capri and the Bay of Naples

Eight days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £809

Italy is a superb destination for a holiday, with its stunning blend of excellent food and wine, gorgeous scenery, together with an enviable climate and a phenomenal cultural legacy.

The Sorrento peninsula and the Bay of Naples is simply one of the most beautiful corners of Europe, attracting visitors for centuries in search of its outstanding scenery, tranquility and some wonderful historic sites.

Sorrento, the base for this holiday, is delightful and so typical of the south of Italy, with tiny cobbled streets, quaint squares with flowers, tubs of geraniums and winding streets lined with tall, seemingly crumbling buildings, now home to superb shops and cosy restaurants.

Price includes:

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation in Sorrento
- Guided tour of Pompeii
- Walking tour of Sorrento
- Cruise to Capri
- Tour of Amalfi coast
- Visits to Vesuvius and Ravello
- Visit to Naples Archaeological Museum
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally

The Bay of Naples skyline is dominated by the majestic and still-active Vesuvius, which rises to over 4,000 feet and has erupted in spectacular fashion several times in its history, including the obliteration of Pompeii.

In the cosmopolitan city of Naples the Archeological Museum houses some of the historical treasures excavated from Pompeii and Herculaneum. And of course, Pompeii itself, is astonishingly preserved and visitors are moved by the sheer scale and eerie atmosphere.

The journey around the legendary Amalfi coast, which is said to be Europe's most beautiful, takes in the cliff-clinging resort of Positano, the picturesque village of Amalfi itself and Ravello, where visitors can see amazing views over the coastline.

Capri, an island renowned the world over for its outstanding natural beauty, attracted Roman emperors and many famous people and it is not difficult to see why, especially with the chance to visit the famous Blue Grotto, a large cavern which can only be reached by boat.

Berlin

Four days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £419

Berlin has a unique atmosphere created because of its remarkable history and of course this year marks the 25th anniversary of the fall of the infamous Berlin Wall which once divided the city in two.

The capital is one of the most vibrant cities in Europe, with many attractions to explore.

It is possible to see the difference between the old East and West Germany and even now Trabant cars, synonomous with the East, have been renovated and considered trendy.

The guided tour introduces visitors to the old heart of the city including Unter den Linden; the beautiful green area of the Tiergarten; the cathedral and the university, once numbering Albert Einstein amongst its professors; and the new seat of Government, the Reichstag, covered by an immense glass dome designed by Sir Norman Foster.

Then there are the symbols of Berlin, the Brandenburg Gate and what remains of the wall itself. However, the city is not all about war and politics, there are many parks to be explored and of course Germany is home to over 500 breweries with Berlin having its own fair share.

Away from the city the itinerary features a visit to Potsdam and the Sanssouci Park housing the palaces of the most famous Prussian monarch, Frederick the Great, including the well-known Palace of Sanssouci. This delightful palace now rises from the park and crowns a series of ascending terraces affording a panoramic view of the spectacular 740-acre park below.

The holiday includes three nights accommodation at the four-star Movenpick hotel, in the former Siemens factory. It is centrally located near Potsdamer Platz, with easy access to plenty of shops, restaurants, bars and cafes.

Price includes:

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided tour of Berlin
- Visit to Potsdam and Sanssouci Park including Rococo Palace
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availabilty – supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally

India and Nepal

15 days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £2,159

This 15-day touring holiday encompasses the very best that Northern India has to offer – from fascinating Delhi and the Taj Mahal to Varanasi, one of the oldest cities in the world. And then, in complete contrast, there's Nepal for the chance to seek out rhinos, bears and tigers, share the peace and tranquility of the Buddhist monks and take a once-in-a-lifetime flight to see Mount Everest.

Tours of New and Old Delhi introduce the major sights. New Delhi is a wonderful city that clearly reflects the legacy of the British Raj. Surprisingly green, it is divided by wide tree-lined avenues with the Presidential Palace at its centre.

While in Old Delhi there's the Red Fort, one of the world's great fortifications with huge walls nearly two miles long. And the city is also home of the Raj Ghat, a memorial to the great Mahatma Gandhi.

For most, the highlight of the trip will be the chance to visit the Taj Mahal, undisputedly one of the world's most stunning buildings. Built from dazzling marble its colour changes from white to yellow, cream and almost to orange. Nearby is the 11th century Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Constructed from red sandstone, the building dominates the surrounding area.

A visit is made to Orchha to discover the 14 cenotaphs with parrots and vultures circling these mystical buildings and the chance to marvel at the palaces of the Orchha Fort complex and admire the fine architecture.

There's also the chance to see some of Khajuraho's remarkable temples, one of the seven wonders of India and another UNESCO World Heritage site. Originally 85 temples were built between the 10th and 12th centuries and today, 22 of these mystical shrines survive.

The tour of India concludes in the city of Varansi, a labyrinth of tangled alleys, shops and workshops and it's from here an exciting rickshaw trip down to the river gives an insight to the pilgrims washing in the holy waters and a boat trip takes in the incredible waterfront to witness the Aarti, an impressive Hindu ceremony.

Nepal is completely different to India, and a visit is made to the famous 14th century Boudhanath Stupa, one of the holiest Buddhist sites. Hear the gentle sound of chanting and praying filling the air.

Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, is one of the world's most naturally beautiful countries, set in a bowl-shaped Himalayan valley 4,500 feet above sea level. This captivating city and Nepal's cultural heart is surrounded by breathtaking snow-capped mountains and from here a flight, weather permitting, gives passengers the chance to photograph Mount Everest from the cockpit of the aircraft.

Take the scenic drive to Chitwan National Park, Nepal's most famous wildlife reserve and one of the finest in Asia. From here visit a local village by ox cart to learn how local people live in a sustainable manner and cross a river on elephant back to observe the animals in their natural habitat and hopefully see the elusive Bengal tiger – a truly unforgettable experience.

Pokhara in central Nepal, is another highlight of the holiday, a charming lakeside town, located in a beautiful area with unbeatable views of the Annapurna mountain range.

Accommoation ranges from a three-star lodge in Chitwan National Park to five-star luxury in Delhi and Kathmandu.

Price includes:

- Return scheduled flights
- 13 nights accommodation in a selection of hotels with daily breakfasts and five meals
- Visits to the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Orchha Fort and some of Khajuraho's temples
- Boat trips on Ganges and lake in Pohkara, rickshaw ride and elephant-back safari
- Tours of Old and New Delhi, Kathmandu and Varanasi
- Early morning trip to see sunrise over the Annapurna mountain range
- Flight to see Mount Everest and the Himalayas (weather permitting)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability -supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally

For a brochure call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm) or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

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The Crown Jewels
and Thames Dinner Cruise

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- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
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- Evening cruise on the River Thames including a hot two-course buffet dinner with a glass of wine
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Afternoon Tea
at the Houses of Parliament

Four days departing May 21

PRICE FROM **£299**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Afternoon Tea in the Terrace Pavilion at the House of Commons overlooking the Thames
- Guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- Visit to St Albans
- Visits to Kenwood House, Kensington Palace, and the Royal Air Force Museum London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Welsh Association of Male Voice Choirs
at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing May 9

PRICE FROM **£129**

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- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer London hotel
- Circle seat for the concert (upgrades offered)
- Sightseeing tour of London
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Butterflies and Orchids

Two days departing March 6

PRICE FROM **£125**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to the Royal Botanical Kew Gardens
- Visit to RHS Wisley gardens
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

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Lindisfarne and the Alnwick Garden

Three days departing Jun 12 and Sept 18

PRICE FROM **£185**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Northumbria's Heritage Coastline and visit to Lindisfarne
- Entrance to The Alnwick Garden
- Visit to Durham
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Norfolk Gardens
and the Lavender Harvest

Three days departing July 3

PRICE FROM **£219**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Norfolk Lavender Caley Mill grounds tour
- Visit the Lavender Oil Distillery
- Cream tea and lavender scones
- Visit to Cambridge
- Entrance to Sandringham house and gardens
- Entrance to Bressingham gardens
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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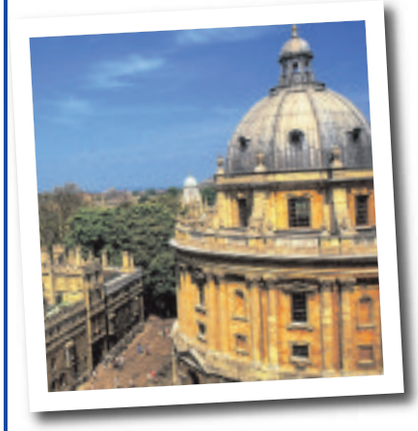

Bath and Oxford
Buy one get one free

Two days departing March 22

PRICE FROM **£155**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to Oxford
- Visit to Bath
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Scarborough, Whitby and York

Four days departing April 10

PRICE FROM **£219**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Scarborough, Whitby, York and Harrogate
- Optional North Yorkshire Moors Railway excursion
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Portsmouth from Sea to Sky

Three days departing April 25

PRICE FROM **£209**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Full day at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- Portsmouth Harbour Cruise
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- Visit to Winchester
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The Secrets of War

Two days departing May 23 and October 3

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- Visit to Oxford
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Call the Midwife

Two days departing May 16, Jul 25, Oct 3

PRICE FROM **£125**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit with entrance to London's Dockyard in Chatham, including a 90-minute guided Call the Midwife tour
- Visit to Canterbury
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Emmerdale Country
and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing May 1, Jun 19, Sep 25

PRICE FROM **£159**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of Emmerdale and the Yorkshire Dales
- Short tour of Last of the Summer Wine country and visit to Holmfirth
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Wanderers beat 'best in the world'

LEIGH SANDERS looks back 60 years on Wolves' famous win over mighty Hungarian side Honved

The Wolves team that clinched the 1954 league title

DECEMBER 13, 1954 – a date that will live long in the memory of Wolves fans. It was the day that their heroes took in the team billed as 'the best in the world' – Honved.

The Hungarian champions – with leading players like Ferenc Puskas, Sandor Kocsis and Ferenc Machos – came to Molinuex to face the Division One title holders in a floodlit clash seen as the forerunner to today's Champions League.

The game was seen as a chance to avenge two England defeats at the hands of the 'Mighty Magyars', many of whom were Honved players. The television cameras were in place among the 55,000 crowd. The night in question was a typical miserable December evening with only the floodlights, which attracted continental opposition to Wolverhampton, illuminating the town. For miles around the brightness from Molineux could be seen – out of darkness cometh light.

Trench coats, flat caps and rattles were the order of the day as fans stood in deep-banked terraces in all four corners of the ground. And out of the Waterloo Road Stand emerged Billy Wright and Puskas, two greats of the game.

Wolves lined up in their famous old gold shirts – on the orders of the legendary boss Stan Cullis – while Honved looked unspectacular in a dull tracksuit.

But less than a quarter-of-an-hour into the match, there was a sense of dreaded familiarity as the all-conquering Hungarians led 2-0.

But after the break a penalty from Johnny Hancocks restored fans' belief. Then, Roy Swinbourne directed a powerful header into the back of the net and against all odds Wanderers were level with the might of Honved.

Captain Eddie Stuart shakes the hand of Ferenc Puskas

Roy Swinbourne heads home – and the scores are level

Legends

Swinbourne, wearing the number nine shirt that has since been worn by many club legends, smashed home the third to complete the comeback and give Wolves their victory. Wolves had defeated 'the greatest side on earth' and in such dramatic style.

Declared 'champions of the world' by the national media, Wolves' success gave birth to many more famous European nights.

The man in goal, Bert Williams, described it as 'one of the greatest games of football to ever be played', while the victorious captain Billy Wright, was no stranger to the big occasion.

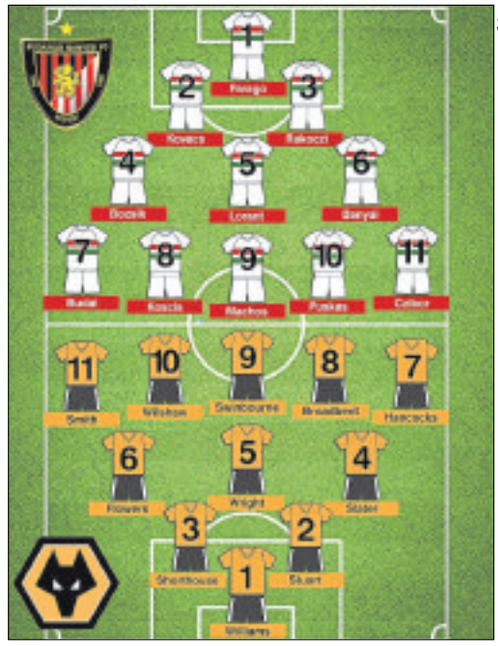
Born in Ironbridge in 1924, the centre half was a one-club man, playing for Wolves his entire career. He represented England 105 times between 1946 and 1959 and made more than 500 appearances for Wolves.

Wright led Wolves during their golden era in which they collected three league titles and an FA Cup.

Today he is immortalised with a stand named after him at Molineux and a bronze statue outside the ground.

Wright died at the age of 70 in 1994.

His daughter Babette, who was among the invited guests at the opening of an exhibition about the Honved game at the Wolves Museum, said of her father: "He could reel off the Honved side without a moment's thought and pronounced the names perfectly.



How they lined up for that famous night at Molineux in 1954

Emergency

"He used to tell of a moment in the game when he tried to tackle Puskas who just moved the ball out of the way at the final moment leaving dad to slide fruitlessly past on his backside.

"He said he felt like a fire engine on an emergency call that had rushed to the wrong address."

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Karate man starts new club

INTERNATIONAL karate athlete Mike Carr has started a new karate club in his hometown of Cannock after running the successful Ryu Shotokan Karate in Stafford for the last two years.

"It has always been my intention to open a class in my home town," he said.

"I really want to create the next generation of champions."

Instructor Mike Carr has competed and trained all across the world and has brought his experience and knowledge into his coaching methods, producing regional and national champions in both kata and kumite.

He is also a sponsored athlete for Nuffield Health in Cannock who sponsor him for international competitions.

The new class, at Avon Road Community Centre, is open to all children aged five to 13. Mike can be contacted by email at ryushotokankarate@hotmail.com

The club is also on Facebook and at www.ryukarate.co.uk

Ex-boyfriend is jailed for £1.2k kidnapping con

A BURNTWOOD man has been jailed after he faked his own kidnap to swindle more than £1,000 ransom money from his ex-girlfriend.

Mohammed Kahn sent pictures on a mobile phone to his partner showing fake injuries that had been created with make-up to back up his story. The 33-year-old's story was rumbled when he asked for a further four-figure sum from his girlfriend, who then told police. Officers turned up at Kahn's home and uncovered his plot. Appearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court, Kahn, of Rugeley Road, was jailed for four months after admitting fraud.

Judge Nicholas Webb said: "I regard this as a mean, cynical and nasty offence against an emotional victim."

Mr Andrew Keogh, prosecuting, said the faked kidnapping took place over five days in October last year.

Text messages were sent to the man's girlfriend claiming that Kahn had been kidnapped and she needed to pay £1,200 for his release.

The text messages included threats Kahn would be hurt and picture messages of fake injuries.

Pressure

Mr Keogh said the victim used £200 of her own money and borrowed £1,000 from a friend to pay a man but Kahn sent the woman another text message demanding a further £1,500 for his release. She then alerted police.

Mr Neil Skinner, defending, said: "This is an unusual offence. He did owe people money and there was a lot of pressure to pay those people back.

"What he did then was use his position in his relationship to obtain money in the way he accepts he did.

"Maybe he could have asked her for it."

Mr Skinner said the couple had now split up. He said his client had problems with alcohol he was now attempting to address.

Pharmacy is first to trial health scheme

The Co-op's Natalie Brant with Finlay and Julia Edwards

THE Co-operative Pharmacy in Cannock has become the first to pilot a new healthcare concept. Developed in line with Government policies on health and social care, it has an increased NHS focus on conditions such as dementia, middle-aged health and children's oral hygiene.

As part of the initial trial, the Cannock branch has been renovated and rebranded as Co-operative Healthcare. If successful, the scheme will be rolled out across the society's 45 pharmacy outlets. Among the new features is a Health Hub area, enabling visitors to undertake a quick self-service health scan, measuring key factors including blood pressure, body fat percentage and heart rate.

The service is aimed at those who may be reluctant about visiting their doctor, helping them to highlight any potential issues without the need for an appointment, with staff on hand to advise patients to see their doctor if required.

The opening was supported by The Midcounties Co-operative's charity partner, Teenage Cancer Trust.

Dickson concert

SCOTTISH singer Barbara Dickson will be performing at Lichfield Garrick Theatre on February 19. Dickson, who has an OBE, is a multi-million selling recording artist with an equally impressive Olivier Award winning acting career.

New council chief on salary up to £200k

A NEW chief executive has been appointed by Staffordshire County Council – and he could earn almost £200,000 a year.

John Henderson will be leaving his post as general officer commanding the British Army in Germany.

Mr Henderson's salary is £180,000, with a performance related bonus of up to eight per cent on top of that.

He said today: "Staffordshire County Council has an ambitious strategy for improving the lives of its residents and I look forward to bringing my skills and experience to contribute to this effort. I have met many partners and staff already and there is no doubt there is a shared passion to do great things for Staffordshire."

Mr Henderson replaces chief executive Nick Bell who left the council in October to take up a new role with Prospects Group, a firm specialising in education and employment work. Interim chief executive John Tradewell will continue

MP praises food bank

LICHFIELD MP Michael Fabricant visited a food bank to see the work carried out by volunteers.

Mr Fabricant was at the food bank based at the city's Wade Street Church. He said: "There are pockets of deprivation in the Lichfield area and the generous donation of food by locals helps those most in need. A major issue is local people not necessarily being aware of the service available."

Anyone wishing to donate food should go to www.lichfield.foodbank.org.uk

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

Wishing you Christmas Cheer

Christmas Day

BBC 1

Michael McIntyre's Very Christmassy Christmas Show, on at 10.40pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. **9.00 The Gruffalo** (R) **9.30 On Angel Wings** (R) **10.00 Come and Join the Celebration** Traditional service from St George's Church in Leeds. **11.00 Only Fools and Horses** Christmas special from 1986. Rodney dates an aristocrat's daughter. (R) **12.00 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out** The animated heroes go to the moon. (R) **12.25 FILM: Gnomeo & Juliet (2011)** Animated comedy, with the voices of James McAvoy and Emily Blunt. ★★★ **1.40 Shaun the Sheep** The animals decorate the farmhouse for Christmas. (R) **1.50 BBC News;** Weather. **2.00 Top of the Pops Christmas** The year's most successful chart acts.

BBC 2

James May's Toy Stories: Action Man at the Speed of Sound, 5.10pm

6.00 FILM: Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (2003) Animated adventure, with the voice of Brad Pitt. ★★★ **7.15 FILM: Short Circuit (1986)** Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Steve Guttenberg. ★★★ **8.50 FILM: Pollyanna (1960)** Family drama, starring Hayley Mills. ★★★ **11.00 Carols from King's** (R) **12.15 To the Manor Born** Audrey takes Christmas very seriously. (R) **12.45 The Choir: New Military Wives** Part two of two. The women perform at the Royal Albert Hall. (R) **1.45 60 Years of Carols from King's** The history of the annual Christmas service broadcast. **2.45 Kiss Me, Kate at the Proms** A performance of Cole Porter's musical at the Royal Albert Hall.

ITV

David calls at the bistro to see Nick in Coronation Street, on at 8.00pm

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.25 Pat & Stan** (R) **6.30 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan** (R) **6.55 Sooty** (R) **7.05 Almost Naked Animals** (R) **7.20 Almost Naked Animals** Children's animation. (R) **7.40 Horrid Henry** (R) **7.55 Horrid Henry** (R) **8.10 Horrid Henry** (R) **8.25 Weekend at Christmas** New series. Aled Jones presents a festive edition of the chat show. **9.25 FILM: Valiant (2005)** Computer-animated adventure, with the voice of Ewan McGregor. ★★★ **10.55 FILM: Back to the Future (1985)** Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Michael J Fox. ★★★★ **1.10 FILM: Nanny McPhee (2005)** Period fantasy, starring Emma Thompson. ★★★

Ch4

Sarah Millican, Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special, on at 9.00pm

6.00 FILM: The Ugly Duckling and Me (2006) ★★★ **7.30 Prep & Landing** (R) **7.55 Prep & Landing: Naughty v Nice** (R) **8.20 Father Christmas** (R) **8.55 FILM: Animals United (2010)** ★★ **10.45 The Simpsons** (R) **11.15 The Simpsons** (R) **11.45 The Simpsons** (R) **12.15 Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas** Festive spin-off of the animated films, with the voice of John Leguizamo. (R) **12.45 The Snowman** Animated adventure, based on Raymond Briggs' festive tale. (R) **1.20 The Snowman and the Snowdog** (R) **1.50 The Alternative Christmas Message 1.55 Channel 4 News Summary 2.05 FILM: Scrooged (1988)** Christmas comedy, starring Bill Murray. ★★★

Ch5

Justin Hawkins, Britain's Favourite Christmas Songs, on at 8.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.10 Access Showbiz news and gossip. **9.20 Andre Rieu: Christmas Around the World** A Christmas concert by the violinist, featuring sumptuously festive performances of White Christmas, Hallelujah and Jingle Bells. Part of Sing-Along Christmas Day. **10.20 FILM: Scrooge (1970)** A miserly man is taught the error of his ways by a host of spectral visitors. Musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, starring Albert Finney and Alec Guinness. ★★★ **12.35 The Sound of Music – Live!** A novice nun brings joy into the lives of seven children when she becomes their governess. Adaptation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, starring Carrie Underwood. (R)

Early View

Prime Time

3.00 The Queen
3.10 Puss in Boots (2011) Premiere. Animated comedy spin-off, with the voice of Antonio Banderas. ★★★
4.40 BBC News; Weather.
5.00 Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special Six previous contestants compete for the Christmas trophy.
6.15 Doctor Who
7.15 Miranda The hit sitcom returns for the final two episodes, which pick up where the last one left off, with the shop owner deciding whether to accept Gary or Mike's proposal.
7.50 Call the Midwife Chummy is asked to help out at a mother-and-baby home whose residents have little in the way of Christmas cheer, while Cynthia assists two former patients of a psychiatric hospital.
9.00 EastEnders Hour-long episode. Christmas Day gets off to a good start for the Carters but soon goes downhill when Sylvie arrives – and then Dean turns up. Cindy is alarmed by a suspicious gift.
10.05 Mrs Brown's Boys The first of two festive editions. Mrs Brown tries to work out what is inside a parcel addressed to Cathy and discovers Rory is planning to have plastic surgery.
10.40 Michael McIntyre's Very Christmassy Christmas Show An hour of festive entertainment, with Jamie Oliver, Rob Brydon, Barbara Windsor and Robbie Williams.
11.40 BBC News; Weather.
11.55 On Christmas Night Adjoa Andoh reflects on the implications of Jesus's birth for his mother.

12.00 Not Going Out Christmas Special (R) **12.45 Would I Lie to You? at Christmas** (R) **1.15 George Michael at the Palais Garnier, Paris** (R) **2.15 FILM: The Heartbreak Kid (2007)** ★★★ **4.05 Skiing Weatherview 4.10 BBC News**

5.00 Sign Zone: The Queen Her Majesty's annual address. (R)
5.10 James May's Toy Stories: Action Man at the Speed of Sound The Top Gear presenter attempts to propel an Action Man through the sound barrier.
6.15 Morecambe and Wise in Pieces: The Sketches Penelope Keith presents another edition of the occasional series, this time trawling the archives for bite-sized routines from the comedy duo's shows.
7.15 Christmas University Challenge Distinguished graduates of the universities of Edinburgh and Leeds compete, with novelist Philippa Gregory and football commentator Jacqui Oatley among the contestants.
7.45 Dad's Army Mainwaring finds himself bidding against Pike for an orange at a fundraising bazaar. Last in the series. (R)
8.30 Blackadder's Christmas Carol Kindly Victorian pushover Ebenezer Blackadder is visited by the Spirit of Christmas and gains an insight into the dastardly deeds of his ancestors. Starring Rowan Atkinson.
9.00 Tim Rice – A Life in Song A concert from London's Royal Festival Hall celebrating the work of the Oscar-winning lyricist, who also reminisces about his career, in the company of Michael Grade.
10.30 QI Christmas Stephen Fry hosts a festive edition of the comedy quiz, with Carrie Fisher, Bill Bailey, Phill Jupitus and Alan Davies.
11.00 Marvellous Fact-based feature-length comedy drama about the life of Neil Baldwin. Toby Jones stars. (R)

12.30 FILM: The Producers (2005) ★★★ **2.35 This Is BBC Two**

3.00 The Queen Her Majesty's annual address.
3.10 The Queen's Garden Part one of two. Exploring Buckingham Palace Garden.
4.10 ITV News and Weather
4.20 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas Stop-motion animated adventure based on the film Elf.
5.20 New You've Been Framed! At Christmas A festive selection of funny clips, narrated by Harry Hill.
5.50 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas The comedian helps out at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home over the festive period.
6.50 ITV News and Weather
7.00 Emmerdale Hour-long episode. Bernice and Robert threaten Andy and Katie's wedding day, Laurel takes in an unwelcome dinner guest, Lachlan leads Belle astray and Jai proposes to Megan.
8.00 Coronation Street Hour-long episode. Kylie is horrified when Callum turns up at her doorstep, Amy and Tony are taken aback by how much Steve has spent and Tracy grabs Tony under the mistletoe.
9.00 Downton Abbey Lord Sinderby invites the Crawleys to a grouse-shooting party at Brancaster Castle, but the butler has an axe to grind and a scandalous secret threatens to derail the holiday.
11.00 ITV News and Weather
11.15 You've Got to Love Christmas Jane Horrocks narrates a comic trawl through the TV archives, guiding viewers through the pitfalls and perils of the festive season, with contributions from famous faces. (R)

12.15 Christmas Carols on ITV A candlelit Christmas Eve carol service from St Mary's Church in Prestwich. (R) **1.15 FILM: Murder, She Wrote: The Celtic Riddle (2003)** Mystery, starring Angela Lansbury. ★★ **2.45 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R)

4.00 Big (1988) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks. ★★★
6.00 Arthur Christmas (2011) Premiere. Santa's son tries to make sure a girl accidentally missed off his father's list gets her presents. Animated comedy, with the voices of James McAvoy and Jim Broadbent. ★★★
8.00 Frozen at Christmas The makers of Disney's Frozen, the most successful animated film of all time, talk about its creation and production, and the writing and performance of its most popular songs.
9.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special Festive fun with the comedian and Terry Wogan, Sarah Millican, Dan Stevens, Emma Willis and Gino D'Acampo. Sam Smith, George Ezra and McBusted provide the music. Last in the series.
11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Christmas Special Jimmy Carr hosts a festive edition of the comedy panel show, with guests Andrew Flintoff, Kevin Bridges and Roisin Conaty joining team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson. (R)

12.00 Father Ted Christmas Special Fathers Ted and Dougal endure their worst Christmas ever when they get lost in a lingerie department, leaving them in a highly embarrassing predicament. Festive edition from 1996. (R) **1.05 Father Ted** The priests go on holiday. (R) **1.35 Father Ted** The priests organise a raffle. (R) **2.00 Father Ted** Craggy Island's most famous religious relic is upgraded. (R) **2.30 FILM: Crazy Heart (2009)** A washed-up alcoholic country music star is granted a new lease of life when he falls for a journalist. Drama, starring an Oscar-winning Jeff Bridges, with Maggie Gyllenhaal. ★★★ **4.25 Secret Eaters** (R) **5.20 Small Animal Hospital** A horse with hoof problems visits the vets. (R) **5.50 FILM: Flicka (2006)** Family drama, with Alison Lohman. ★★★

3.25 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (1968) Children's musical adventure, starring Dick Van Dyke. ★★★
6.10 Michael Buble's Christmas Songbook The Canadian crooner sings Christmas classics and appears in a variety of comedy sketches, and is joined by Rod Stewart, Blake Shelton, Carly Rae Jepsen, Elmo and Oscar the Grouch. Part of the Sing-Along Christmas Day strand. (R)
7.05 Chas & Dave's Xmas Knees Up! Festive entertainment from 1982, with guests including Eric Clapton, Jimmy Cricket, Jim Davidson, Albert Lee and Lennie Peters joining the Cockney duo. Part of Sing-Along Christmas Day. (R)
8.00 Britain's Favourite Christmas Songs A countdown of songs guaranteed to make any Christmas party go with a swing, including classics by the Jackson 5, Jona Lewie, Band Aid, the Pogues and Kirsty MacColl, and Slade. Part of Sing-Along Christmas Day. (R)
11.05 Muriel's Wedding (1994) A downtrodden Abba-obsessed woman heads for the bright lights of Sydney to fulfil her dreams of the perfect wedding. Comedy, with Toni Collette, Bill Hunter and Rachel Griffiths. Part of Sing-Along Christmas Day. ★★★

1.20 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 House Doctor** Ann Maurice visits Headcorn in Kent, where she and Tris Payne try to create the illusion of space in a tiny cottage for a couple who want to sell up before they have a baby. (R) **4.25 House Doctor** A flat in Kensal Green, west London. (R) **4.50 Wildlife SOS** The work of an animal sanctuary. (R) **5.10 House Doctor** A property in Ashover Hay, Derbyshire. (R) **5.35 Wildlife SOS**

Late View

Boxing Day

Early View

BBC 1

Nick says goodbye to his family in EastEnders, shown at 8.00pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. **9.00 FILM: Pinocchio (1940)** Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Dick Jones. ★★★★ **10.25 CBeebies Peter Pan** Musical adaptation of JM Barrie's tale. **11.05 Room on the Broom** (R) **11.30 FILM: Cool Runnings (1993)** Fact-based sporting comedy, starring John Candy. ★★★ **1.05 BBC News;** Weather. **1.15 BBC Regional News and Weather 1.25 The Incredible Adventures of Professor Branestawm** Comedy drama, starring Harry Hill as the absent-minded inventor. (R) **2.20 My Family Christmas Special** The Harpers celebrate Christmas 2039, with an 80-year-old Ben as grumpy as ever. (R)

BBC 2

Festive skits in Victoria Wood's Midlife Christmas, 8.00pm

6.10 FILM: The Road to El Dorado (2000) Animated adventure, with the voices of Kenneth Branagh and Kevin Kline. ★★★ **7.30 FILM: College Road Trip (2008)** Family comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. ★ **8.50 Queen of Tigers: Natural World Special** Colin Stafford-Johnson films the life of tiger Machli in India. (R) **9.50 Ten Pieces 10.40 60 Years of Carols from King's** The history of the annual Christmas service broadcast. (R) **11.40 FILM: On the Town (1949)** Musical, starring Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin. ★★★★ **1.15 Gene Kelly: Talking Pictures** A profile of actor and dancer Gene Kelly. (R) **1.50 FILM: Singin' in the Rain (1952)** Musical comedy, starring Gene Kelly. ★★★★

ITV

Kermit the Frog features in A Christmas Cracker, shown at 8.00pm

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.20 Pat & Stan** (R) **6.30 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** (R) **6.55 Sooty** (R) **7.05 Almost Naked Animals** (R) **7.20 Almost Naked Animals** (R) **7.35 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **7.50 Super 4** (R) **8.10 Super 4** (R) **8.25 Weekend at Christmas 9.25 Dinner Date: Australia** (R) **10.25 Celebrity Squares** (R) **11.25 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas** (R) **12.30 ITV News and Weather 12.45 The Chase: Christmas Special** With Steve Pemberton, Paula Lane, Ben Miller and Mr Burton. Last in the series. (R) **1.45 FILM: Back to the Future Part II (1989)** Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Michael J Fox. ★★★

Ch4

Bear's Wild Weekend with Ben Stiller, shown at 8.00pm

7.25 The Bear Animation based on the Raymond Briggs tale. (R) **7.55 The Morning Line** Nick Luck and guests are at Kempton Park to preview today's races. **9.00 The Big Bang Theory** Leonard's mother visits. (R) **9.25 The Big Bang Theory** Leonard fails to get Sheldon into the Christmas mood. (R) **9.55 FILM: Inspector Gadget (1999)** Disney comedy adventure, starring Matthew Broderick. ★ **11.30 FILM: Horton Hears a Who! (2008)** An elephant discovers a city on a speck of dust and vows to protect it, but the other animals think he has gone mad. Animated comedy, with the voices of Jim Carrey and Steve Carell. ★★★ **1.15 Channel 4 Racing** Clare Balding and Nick Luck present live coverage.

Ch5

Tommy Cooper's Christmas Special, shown at 9.25pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Access Showbiz news and gossip. **10.05 FILM: Carry On Constable (1960)** A staff shortage forces a police inspector to take on four bumbling new recruits, who only increase the crime rate. Comedy, starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Kenneth Connor. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (b/w) ★★★ **11.45 FILM: Carry On Teacher (1959)** A headmaster's hopes of landing a job at a better school are ruined by his naughty pupils, who do not want him to leave. Comedy, with Ted Ray, Kenneth Connor and Kenneth Williams. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (b/w) ★★★ **1.30 FILM: Carry On Nurse (1959)** Comedy, starring Kenneth Williams and Hattie Jacques. (b/w) ★★★

Prime Time

3.15 Monsters, Inc (2001) Two monsters try to get a little girl who has wandered into their world back home before anyone finds out. Pixar animated comedy, with the voices of John Goodman and Billy Crystal. ★★★

4.40 The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists! (2012) Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Hugh Grant. ★★★

6.05 BBC News; Weather.

6.20 Midlands Today; Weather.

6.25 Still Open All Hours New series. David Jason returns as shopkeeper Granville, who is forced to take extra security precautions – causing him no end of discomfort. The next episode is on Sunday at 7.30pm.

6.55 The Boy in the Dress Family comedy based on David Walliams' children's book about a 12-year-old boy who shocks his family and friends when he starts cross-dressing.

8.00 EastEnders The fallout continues for the Carters as more lies are exposed, while Dot is heartbroken when Charlie hands Nick his ferry tickets and drives him away from Walford.

8.30 Avengers Assemble (2012) Premiere. Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and the Hulk unite to defend Earth from an alien invasion. Superhero adventure, with Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans and Chris Hemsworth. ★★★★

10.40 BBC News

10.50 BBC Regional News and Weather; National Lottery Update

11.00 Match of the Day Highlights of the Boxing Day Premier League fixtures, which included Chelsea v West Ham United and Arsenal v Queens Park Rangers.

12.35 EastEnders (R) **3.30 Weather for the Week Ahead 3.35 BBC News**

3.30 Victoria Wood: That Musical We Made The comedienne presents a behind-the-scenes look at the film That Day We Sang which she wrote and directed, as well as the events that inspired the story.

4.30 Final Score Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of this afternoon's results from the Premier League and Football League.

5.25 War Horse at the Proms The BBC Concert Orchestra is joined by Gareth Malone and the Military Wives for music and stories from the First World War, inspired by Michael Morpurgo's novel.

6.45 Christmas University Challenge Graduates of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and Balliol College, Oxford, compete. Doctor Who star Dan Starkey and and Liberal Democrat MP Alan Beith are among the contestants.

7.15 The Two Ronnies: Christmas Show Vintage comedy from Messrs Barker and Corbett. (R)

8.00 Victoria Wood's Midlife Christmas A festive special from 2009 that attempts to cram a night's Christmas viewing into an hour. Highlights include the Midlife Olympics, and costume drama Lark Pies to Cranchesterford. (R)

9.00 That Day We Sang A children's choir reunites in 1969 after a 40-year interval, prompting two members to reflect on their lives. Victoria Wood's musical drama, with Imelda Staunton and Michael Ball.

10.30 Hunky Dory (2011) Premiere. A teacher at a 1970s Welsh school persuades her students to stage a musical based on Shakespeare's The Tempest. Drama, with Minnie Driver. ★★★

12.15 FILM: The Winslow Boy (1999) Drama, with Nigel Hawthorne. ★★★ **1.55 This Is BBC Two**

3.45 Off Their Rockers Velma gets racy in a photo booth. (R)

4.15 Downton Abbey Lord Sinderby invites the Crawleys to a grouse-shooting party at Brancaster Castle, but the butler has an axe to grind and a scandalous secret threatens to derail the holiday. (R)

6.15 ITV News and Weather

6.30 Emmerdale Jai spots the man who sold him Archie and Megan wants to take action, knowing this is her only chance to find Rachel. Katie comes up with an idea to get Robert out of her life.

7.00 Coronation Street Hour-long episode. Gary has an unexpected encounter after trying to steal from the cafe till, and a drunk David makes a shock announcement in the Rovers.

8.00 A Christmas Cracker Bradley Walsh hosts a festive spectacular from the Hammersmith Apollo with a variety of guests, including Al Murray, Katherine Jenkins, the Muppets, the Vamps and Flawless.

9.00 Birds of a Feather New series. The hit sitcom begins its second series on ITV with a Christmas special. Dorien splashes out on a trip to the Canary Islands, taking Sharon and Tracey with her.

9.30 Through the Christmas Keyhole Keith Lemon noses around the homes of mystery celebrities and challenges the panel – Jonathan Ross, Louis Walsh and Kym Marsh – to work out their identities.

10.30 ITV News and Weather

10.45 Out of Sight (1998) A US Marshal pursues an escaped convict, but as the chase intensifies, so do their feelings for each other. Romantic crime drama, starring George Clooney. ★★★

12.50 Jackpot247 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA (R) **3.45 ITV Nightscreen**

3.50 Turner & Hooch (1989) Family canine comedy, starring Tom Hanks. ★★★

5.50 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.

6.00 The Simpsons Four tales celebrating the festive season. Bart hatches a plan to hold Santa Claus hostage, and Katy Perry leads the family in a rendition of The 39 Days of Christmas.

6.30 Hollyoaks Sinead's life hangs in the balance, while Ste and John Paul's future looks uncertain, and Nancy is left with a difficult decision to make.

7.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD Coulson and Whitehall's forces meet in an explosive confrontation that dramatically alters the fate of everyone involved, while Skye discovers some shocking secrets about her past.

8.00 Bear's Wild Weekend with Ben Stiller Survivalist Bear Grylls is partnered with actor and director Ben Stiller for a 48-hour, action-filled trek into the wilds of Scotland that pushes them to the limit. (R)

9.00 The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2014 Richard Ayoade, David Mitchell, Mel B, Micky Flanagan, Sarah Millican and Kevin Bridges battle it out to see who knows the most about the past 12 months. Jimmy Carr hosts.

11.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special Festive fun with guests Terry Wogan, Sarah Millican, Dan Stevens, Emma Willis and Gino D'Acampo. Last in the series. (R)

1.05 FILM: Legend (1985) Fantasy adventure, with Tom Cruise. ★★ **2.45 FILM: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969)** Western, starring Paul Newman. ★★★★ **4.35 Small Animal Hospital** (R) **5.00 Small Animal Hospital** (R) **5.25 FILM: Flicka 2 (2010)** Premiere. Family drama, starring Tammin Sursok. ★★★

3.15 The Ladykillers (1955) Ealing black comedy, starring Alec Guinness. ★★★★

5.00 A Shot in the Dark (1964) Comedy, starring Peter Sellers. ★★★

7.05 Rob Brydon Live A stand-up show recorded at Norwich's Theatre Royal during the comedian and actor's first UK tour in 2009, featuring comic tales, impressions, songs and anecdotes. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (R)

8.00 Morecambe & Wise Live! 1973 The duo's performance at the Ashcroft Theatre in Croydon's Fairfield Halls in October 1973, which was the only one of their stage shows captured on film. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (R)

9.25 Tommy Cooper's Christmas Special Festive edition of the comic magician's show from 1974, featuring music by Dana and Vic Damone and a guest appearance by French puppeteer Andre Tahon. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (R)

10.25 Carry On Christmas The gang's first TV special, originally broadcast in 1969, which consists of sketches based on A Christmas Carol. With Sid James, Barbara Windsor and Frankie Howerd. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (R)

11.30 Greatest Ever Carry On Films A rundown of the most memorable moments from the classic comedy film series, including flying bikinis, suggestive laughs and infamous catchphrases. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (R)

12.35 FILM: Carry On Spying (1964) Comedy, starring Kenneth Williams. (b/w) ★★★ **2.20 SuperCasino 3.10 Britain's Craziest Christmas Lights** (R) **4.00 Great Scientists** (R) **4.25 House Doctor** (R) **4.45 House Doctor** (R) **5.10 House Doctor** (R) **5.35 Wildlife SOS** (R)

Late View

Merry Christmas

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Merry Christmas

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

Wishing you Christmas Cheer

New Year's Eve

BBC 1

Queen + Adam Lambert Rock Big Ben Live, shown at 11.15pm

6.00 Breakfast Round-up of national and international news, plus the latest from the money markets. **9.00 FILM: The Cat in the Hat (2003)** Comedy fantasy, starring Mike Myers. ★★ **10.15 FILM: Eight Below (2006)** A blizzard forces an Antarctic guide to abandon his huskies, which must now rely on their pack instinct to survive. Disney adventure, starring Paul Walker and Bruce Greenwood. ★★★ **12.05 Bargain Hunt** (R) **12.50 BBC News 1.00 BBC Regional News;** Weather. **1.10 FILM: Ratatouille (2007)** Pixar animated comedy, with the voice of Patton Oswalt. ★★★★ **2.50 FILM: Monsters vs Aliens (2009)** Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. ★★★

BBC 2

Mock the Week New Year's Eve Special, shown at 10.50pm

6.10 Sign Zone: Secrets of the Castle with Ruth, Peter and Tom The team explores the construction of a castle's defences. (R) **7.10 Natural World: Empire of the Desert Ants** (R) **8.10 FILM: Saboteur (1942)** Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Robert Cummings. (b/w) ★★★ **9.55 Alfred Hitchcock: Talking Pictures** (R) **10.35 FILM: Shadow of a Doubt (1943)** Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Joseph Cotten. (b/w) ★★★★ **12.20 The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure** Dave Myers and Si King are entertained by a geisha in Kyoto. (R) **1.20 FILM: Becoming Jane (2006)** Romantic period drama, starring Anne Hathaway and James McAvoy. ★★★

ITV

Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This, shown at 10.00pm

6.00 Dinner Date Joel from Manchester picks three blind dates. (R) **7.00 Good Morning Britain** Sir David Attenborough chats to Kate Garraway about his new documentary series Conquest of the Skies. **8.30 Lorraine** Entertainment and fashion news. **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show** Guests air their differences. (R) **10.30 Judge Rinder** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R) **11.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** Footballer Wes Brown plays host. (R) **12.25 All Star Family Fortunes** With Rav Wilding and Blythe Duff. (R) **1.10 ITV News and Weather 1.20 Secret Dealers** Items include a "grotesque" fish vase and a diamond cluster ring. (R) **2.20 The Queen's Garden** (R)

Ch4

The success of Disney's film, Frozen at Christmas, on at 8.00pm

6.20 How I Met Your Mother (R) **6.40 How I Met Your Mother** Britney Spears guest stars. (R) **7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond** (R) **7.30 FILM: The Valley of Gwangi (1969)** Fantasy Western, starring James Franciscus. ★★ **9.20 FILM: The Brady Bunch Movie (1995)** Comedy based on the 1970s sitcom, starring Shelley Long. ★★★ **11.00 The Big Bang Theory** (R) **11.25 The Simpsons** Bart is knocked down by Mr Burns' car. (R) **11.55 The Simpsons** Homer fears he has only 24 hours to live. (R) **12.25 FILM: Five Children and It (2004)** Children's fantasy, with Kenneth Branagh. ★★ **2.15 FILM: Home Alone 3 (1997)** Comedy sequel, starring Alex D Linz. ★★★

Ch5

The success of the Swedish group, The Abba Years, 12.00am

6.00 Milkshake! 10.10 World's Strongest Man 2014 Action from the fourth and penultimate heat at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles, which featured three-time champion Zydrunas Savickas. (R) **11.10 FILM: Carry On Regardless (1961)** Seven bungling handymen have to prove they can hold down a job when their landlord tries to evict them. Slapstick comedy, starring Sid James, Charles Hawtrey and Kenneth Williams. (b/w) ★★ **1.00 FILM: The Vikings (1958)** A Norse warrior fights to claim the Northumbrian throne, unaware his rival for the crown is really his half-brother. Adventure, with Kirk Douglas, Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh. ★★★★

Early View

Prime Time

4.15 Top of the Pops New Year's Eve Fearne Cotton and Reggie Yates review the year in music.
5.20 Pointless Celebrities A star-studded version of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz. (R)
6.05 BBC News
6.20 Midlands Today; Weather.
6.35 Celebrity Mastermind Steve Pemberton, Harry Shearer, Kate Thornton and Tony Law answer questions on subjects including the Coen brothers' films, George Michael and Second World War fighter aircraft.
7.05 Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) The globe-trotting archaeologist races against Soviet agents to find a mysterious artefact of untold power. Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Cate Blanchett. ★★★
9.00 Mapp and Lucia Miss Lucia introduces a series of musical evenings, although Mapp notices the locals are tiring of her bossy ways and is keen to encourage a revolt. Last in the series.
10.00 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update
10.15 The Graham Norton Show Graham invites another line-up of A-list guests to huddle up on the sofa and help him welcome in the new year.
11.15 Queen + Adam Lambert Rock Big Ben Live Brian May and Roger Taylor join forces with Adam Lambert at the Central Hall in London's Westminster, bringing in the new year with a concert of Queen's greatest hits.
11.55 New Year's Eve Fireworks
12.10 Queen + Adam Lambert Rock Big Ben Live 12.30 Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special (R) **1.10 John Bishop Live: Elvis Has Left the Building** (R) **2.20 FILM: Old School (2003)** ★★★ **3.50 Weather for the Week Ahead 3.55 BBC News**

3.10 Coast Australia (R)
4.00 Big Dreams Small Spaces Horticulturalist Monty Don helps amateur gardeners on the south coast of England and in Snowdonia who are battling the elements as they attempt to create idyllic outdoor spaces. (R)
5.00 Wild Brazil The animals look for breeding partners. Last in the series. (R)
6.00 Flog It! Catherine Southon and Mark Stacey locate interesting items at St Petroc's Church in Bodmin, Cornwall. (R)
7.00 Tigers About the House – What Happened Next First of a two-part programme catching up with zookeeper Giles Clark and the Sumatran tiger cubs he was hand-rearing in his home in the suburbs of Queensland.
8.00 Christmas University Challenge Two teams of distinguished graduates compete on behalf of their former universities in the first semi-final of the academic quiz's festive series. Jeremy Paxman hosts.
8.30 The Help (2011) Premiere. An aspiring journalist in 1960s Mississippi creates controversy by giving black servants the chance to tell their stories. Drama, starring Emma Stone and Viola Davis. ★★★
10.50 Mock the Week New Year's Eve Special A selection of out-takes, quizzes and favourite clips. Last in the series.
11.20 Jools' Annual Hootenanny 2014 With Ronnie Spector, Ed Sheeran, Boz Scaggs, Paolo Nutini, Ellie Goulding, William Bell, Paloma Faith, Wilko Johnson, Joss Stone, Clean Bandit with Jess Glynne and Hayseed Dixie.
1.35 Glastonbury 2014 Highlights A selection of performances from the festival at Worthy Farm in Somerset. **3.40 This Is BBC Two**

3.25 Goldfinger (1964) James Bond adventure, starring Sean Connery. ★★★★
5.35 The Chase Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
6.30 ITV News Central; Weather.
6.45 ITV News and Weather
7.00 Emmerdale Samson finds one of Belle's pills and tells Zak and Lisa, Jimmy worries about Nicola when she heads straight back to work and Robert feels torn between Chrissie and Aaron.
7.30 Coronation Street Liz tells Steve he can borrow from the Rovers' account to pay his staff, David lets Michael move into No 8 after he is evicted and Gary apologises to Roy for breaking into the cafe.
8.00 Rita & Me Fifty years after Barbara Knox's first appearance on Coronation Street, this programme looks back on her character Rita's greatest moments on the cobbles.
9.00 A Funny Old Year 2014 Jason Manford presents this end-of-year comedy review show – a humorous celebration of the highs and lows of the past 12 months, from the brilliant to the infuriating.
10.00 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This Biopic of the hugely popular comedian, who was in love with two women and unable to choose between them. Starring David Threlfall (Shameless), with Amanda Redman and Helen McCrory. (R)
11.55 ITV News and Weather and New Year's Bongs The headlines, followed by Big Ben.
12.10 FILM: Carry On Camping (1969) Two men hatch a plan to lure their unsuspecting girlfriends to a nudist camp and introduce them to a life of wild abandon. Bawdy comedy, starring Sid James. ★★★ **1.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** (R) **2.25 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R)

4.20 Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) Stop-motion animated adventure, with the voice of George Clooney. ★★★
6.00 The Simpsons Lisa tries to make amends for cheating in an exam, but the school authorities turn a deaf ear to her confession that she bought the answers from Nelson. (R)
6.30 Hollyoaks Hour-long episode. A desperate Nancy puts herself in danger, while Joe decides he must find out the truth about Freddie, and Robbie stands up to his dad.
7.30 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.
8.00 Frozen at Christmas The makers of Disney's Frozen, the most successful animated film of all time, talk about its creation and production, and the writing and performance of its most popular songs. (R)
9.00 Alan Carr's New Year Specstacular The comedian is joined by Jonathan Ross, Gok Wan, Alesha Dixon, Mark Wright, James Corden, Caroline Flack and Seann Walsh, with music by Tulisa Contostavlos and Professor Green.
11.05 50 Funniest Moments 2014 Famous faces help count down the year's top 50 hilarious incidents across the worlds of TV, music, sport, politics and the internet – most of them unintentional. (R)
12.40 C4's 30 Greatest Comedy Shows Celebrating some of the station's most impressive comedy series, exploring the impact shows including Father Ted, Spaced and The Inbetweeners have had on British TV. (R) **2.30 The IT Crowd** Moss and Roy display curious symptoms. (R) **2.55 The IT Crowd** Jen deals with a difficult builder. (R) **3.20 The IT Crowd** Roy and Moss revel in their masculinity. (R) **3.50 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent** (R) **4.45 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures** (R) **4.55 Secret Eaters** (R) **5.50 How I Met Your Mother** (R)

3.10 The Dirty Dozen (1967) Second World War action adventure, with Lee Marvin. ★★★
6.05 Tommy Cooper's Christmas Special Festive edition of the comic magician's show from 1974, featuring music by Dana and Vic Damone and a guest appearance by French puppeteer Andre Tahon. (R)
7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away High Court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve and Ben Pinner face their biggest eviction yet, as they take on squatters in a large central London office block; (R) 5 News Update
8.00 World's Strongest Man 2014 Action from the fifth and final heat at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles, which featured defending champion Brian Shaw and Britain's Graham Hicks; 5 News at 9
9.00 Britain's Favourite Sitcoms Mel Giedroyc narrates a countdown of the nation's 50 best-loved TV comedies, as voted for by Channel 5 viewers in an online poll.
12.00 The Abba Years The success of the Swedish group, exploring the flamboyant outfits, hit records, successful spin-offs, marriages and break-ups. Featuring interviews with the band members. (R) **1.00 SuperCasino** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10 World's Strongest Man 2014** Action from the fourth and penultimate heat at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles, which featured three-time champion Zydrunas Savickas. (R) **4.00 Great Scientists** The life and legacy of Charles Darwin, one of the most controversial scientists of all time, whose theory of evolution caused a storm in Victorian society. (R) **4.25 Chinese Food in Minutes** Steamed wine sea bass and a spicy beef dish. (R) **4.30 Chinese Food in Minutes** Ching-He Huang teaches two rugby players to prepare oriental dishes. (R) **4.45 House Doctor** (R) **5.10 House Doctor** (R) **5.35 Wildlife SOS** (R)

Late View

New Year's Day

BBC 1

Gary Lineker presents Match of the Day, shown at 10.35pm

Early View

6.00 Breakfast Round-up of national and international news, plus the latest from the money markets. **9.00 FILM: Bee Movie (2007)** Animated comedy, with the voice of Jerry Seinfeld. ★★★ **10.25 FILM: Over the Hedge (2006)** Animated comedy, with the voice of Bruce Willis. ★★★ **11.40 Life Story: The Full Circle** Highlights of the natural history series. **12.45 The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message** By the Most Rev Justin Welby. **12.50 BBC News 1.00 BBC Regional News;** Weather. **1.10 The Boy in the Dress** David Walliams' story about a youngster who wants to be different. (R) **2.10 FILM: Mary Poppins (1964)** Disney musical fantasy, with Julie Andrews. ★★★★

Prime Time

4.25 The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (2011) Premiere. A reporter goes on a globetrotting quest to find a sunken ship containing a pirate's lost treasure. Animated adventure, with the voices of Jamie Bell and Andy Serkis. ★★★

6.05 BBC News

6.20 Midlands Today; Weather.

6.30 Roald Dahl's Esio Trot Dustin Hoffman and Judi Dench star in this adaptation of Roald Dahl's story about retired bachelor Mr Hoppy, who hits upon a cunning plan to romance his neighbour Mrs Silver.

8.00 Miranda The very last episode of the hit sitcom sees the shopkeeper making one final attempt to accept herself and find contentment. Miranda Hart stars, with Patricia Hodge and Tom Ellis.

8.30 EastEnders Hour-long episode. After the drama of Christmas, the good folk of Walford turn their attention to the new year – and things get off to an explosive start.

9.35 Mrs Brown's Boys The second of two festive episodes. Agnes increases her home security after a spate of local burglaries, while Cathy is feeling broody, giving lovelorn Buster Brady an idea.

10.10 BBC News

10.25 BBC Regional News; Weather.

10.35 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea at White Hart Lane and Southampton v Arsenal at St Mary's Stadium.

Late View

12.10 Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga: Cheek to Cheek Live! The unlikely music duo take to the stage in New York. (R) **1.05 FILM: Road Trip (2000)** Comedy, starring Breckin Meyer, Tom Green and Seann William Scott. ★★ **2.35 Skiing Weatherview 2.40 BBC News**

BBC 2

Jeremy Paxman hosts Christmas University Challenge, 8.30pm

6.15 Sign Zone: The Great Interior Design Challenge (R) **7.15 Sign Zone: Close Calls: On Camera** (R) **7.45 Alec Guinness: Talking Pictures** (R) **8.30 FILM: The Lavender Hill Mob (1951)** (b/w) ★★★★ **9.50 FILM: A Hard Day's Night (1964)** (b/w) ★★★★ **11.15 New Year's Day Concert Live from Vienna** Coverage of the Vienna Philharmonic's traditional New Year's Day concert. **12.50 Snow Wolf Family and Me** Part one of two. Gordon Buchanan explores the lives and habits of Arctic wolves. (R) **1.50 Snow Wolf Family and Me** Part two of two. Gordon Buchanan follows the wolves as they hunt. (R) **2.50 FILM: Galaxy Quest (1999)** Sci-fi comedy, starring Tim Allen. ★★★

4.25 The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message By the Most Rev Justin Welby. (R)

4.30 Final Score A round-up of this afternoon's football results.

5.30 Force 10 from Navarone (1978) A commando mission to destroy a bridge in the Balkans that is vital to the Nazis is jeopardised by a traitor. Second World War adventure sequel, with Harrison Ford and Robert Shaw. ★★

7.30 Tigers About the House – What Happened Next Part two of two. The Clarks see the harsh reality of tiger poaching in Indonesia, while Spot faces an operation that may end with him losing all vision.

8.30 Christmas University Challenge Two teams of distinguished graduates compete on behalf of their former universities in the second semi-final of the festive edition of the academic quiz. Jeremy Paxman hosts.

9.00 Quartet (2012) Premiere. Three former opera singers' plans for a fundraising concert for their retirement home are disrupted by a new arrival. Comedy drama, with Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly. ★★★

10.30 Julie Walters: A Life on Screen The actress chats about her career, from her beginnings in theatre through to her successes in TV and film. With contributions by Victoria Wood, Celia Imrie and Hugh Bonneville. (R)

11.30 Mock the Week New Year's Eve Special Dara O Briain presents a selection of out-takes, quizzes and favourite clips. Last in the series. (R)

12.05 FILM: Frenzy (1972) Thriller, starring Jon Finch. ★★★ **1.55 FILM: Stick It (2006)** Comedy, starring Missy Peregrym. ★★★ **3.35 This Is BBC Two**

ITV

New You've Been Framed! At Christmas, shown at 7.00pm

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.20 Pat & Stan** (R) **6.30 Dino Dan** (R) **6.55 Dino Dan** (R) **7.00 Canimals** (R) **7.10 Sooty** (R) **7.25 A Grizzly New Year's Tale** (R) **7.55 Super 4** (R) **8.10 Super 4** (R) **8.25 Dinner Date** Lucy from Surrey hopes to find love. (R) **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show 10.20 Judge Rinder** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R) **11.20 Who's Doing the Dishes?** Tricia Penrose plays host. (R) **12.25 All Star Family Fortunes** With Nadia Sawalha and Jane Cox. (R) **1.25 ITV News and Weather 1.35 Secret Dealers** The dealers bid on a Victorian silver-mounted scent bottle. **2.35 You've Been Framed!** Comedy clips, including a cat that refuses to be put down. (R)

3.05 Thunderball (1965) James Bond sets out to foil a plot by crime syndicate Spectre to detonate two nuclear warheads off the US coast. Spy adventure, with Sean Connery, Claudine Auger and Adolfo Celi. ★★★

5.45 Rita & Me Barbara Knox looks back on her 50-year career on Coronation Street. (R)

6.45 ITV News and Weather

7.00 New You've Been Framed! At Christmas Harry Hill narrates a festive selection of comedy clips, featuring a photo-bombing reindeer, an explosive chimney and a squirrel wrecking his neighbour's Christmas lights. (R)

7.30 Emmerdale Hour-long episode. Belle persuades Lachlan to try one of the pills, but he struggles with the effects and takes a turn for the worse. Harriet tells Finn she has news about his mum.

8.30 Birds of a Feather Sharon amazes the others with her high IQ, and Dorien, under pressure to find a heroine for her next book, decides to push her toward a surprising new career.

9.00 The Dark Knight (2008) Premiere. Batman is pushed to breaking point as criminal mastermind the Joker plunges Gotham City into chaos. Comic-book thriller sequel, with Christian Bale and Heath Ledger. ★★★★

11.55 ITV News and Weather

12.00 The Cube A Londoner hopes to win enough money to take his family to Australia, while a police officer from the West Midlands thinks she is tough enough to walk away with the jackpot. (R) **12.50 Jackpot247** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R)

Ch4

Alex Zane presents Rude Tube Welcome to 2015, shown at 10.30pm

6.15 FILM: The Three Worlds of Gulliver (1960) Fantasy adventure, starring Kerwin Mathews. ★★★ **7.55 FILM: The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958)** The wily sailor pits his wits against an evil magician to save a princess on an island inhabited by hideous monsters. Fantasy adventure, starring Kerwin Mathews and Kathryn Grant. ★★★ **9.45 The Big Bang Theory** Penny arranges a date for Raj. (R) **10.10 The Big Bang Theory** Sheldon's old adversary Wil Wheaton returns. (R) **10.40 The Simpsons** Marge recalls how she met Homer. (R) **11.10 FILM: The Last Mimzy (2007)** Children's fantasy, starring Chris O'Neil. ★★★ **1.00 Channel 4 Racing** Nick Luck presents live coverage of six races.

3.30 Guy Martin's Passion for Life Documentary following the life of the motorcycle racer and lorry mechanic. (R)

4.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.

4.10 The Wizard of Oz (1939) A tornado whisks a girl off to a magical land where she embarks on a journey in search of the wizard who knows the way home. Musical fantasy, with Judy Garland and Ray Bolger. ★★★★

6.10 Sister Act (1992) A nightclub singer is sent to live in a convent for her own protection after agreeing to testify against a brutal gangster. Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg and Harvey Keitel. Edited for language. ★★★

8.00 Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) Premiere. A princess joins forces with the warrior sent to kill her to overthrow an evil queen. Fantasy adventure, starring Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth and Charlize Theron. Edited for violence. ★★★

10.30 Rude Tube Welcome to 2015 Alex Zane explores the 100 most popular internet videos of the past 12 months in a two-hour special, featuring the spider-dog prank.

12.35 FILM: The Godfather (1972) A crime boss entrusts control of his business to his three sons after an attempt is made on his life. Francis Ford Coppola's gangster drama, starring Marlon Brando. ★★★★ **3.30 Trans World Sport** Including a profile of wheelchair rugby in Australia, the Carolina-Duke US college basketball rivalry and an interview with Goran Ivanisevic. **4.30 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent** The property expert helps a couple on the Wirral whose five-bedroom semi looks like a student residence. (R) **5.25 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites** (R) **5.40 Small Animal Hospital** (R)

Ch5

Andy and Maggie Robin feature, Hercules the Human Bear, 7.30pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.45 Access Showbiz news and gossip. (R) **10.00 World's Strongest Man 2014** Action from the fifth and final heat at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles, which featured defending champion Brian Shaw and Britain's Graham Hicks. (R) **11.00 FILM: The Dam Busters (1954)** An engineer designs an ingenious bouncing bomb to destroy major dams in Germany's industrial heartland. Fact-based Second World War drama, with Michael Redgrave. (b/w) ★★★★ **1.25 FILM: The Italian Job (1969)** A crook recruits a gang to steal $4million in gold bullion and make a quick getaway from central Turin in a fleet of Minis. Crime comedy, starring Michael Caine. ★★★★

3.30 Ben-Hur (1959) A Jewish prince is betrayed by his Roman friend and sold into slavery, but returns years later to seek revenge. Oscar-winning epic, starring Charlton Heston and Stephen Boyd. ★★★★

7.30 Hercules the Human Bear The story of Andy and Maggie Robin's 25-year relationship with a grizzly bear they bought as a cub from an Aviemore zoo, and which went on to become a star of TV and films. (R)

8.30 World's Strongest Man 2014 Action from the Grand Final at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles, which featured the 12 qualifiers from the five heats. Last in the series; 5 News Update

9.35 White Dee: What's All the Fuss About? Dee Kelly reveals how appearing on Benefits Street changed her life, leading to new-found fame and featuring public appearances, photoshoots, newspaper interviews and politics.

10.35 Celeb Big Brother: The Good, the Bad and the Unforgettable Emma Willis narrates a selection of memorable moments from the reality show, including George Galloway pretending to be a cat and Lionel Blair dressed in bondage gear.

12.35 Jim Davidson: At Least I'm Not Boring The comedian gives an insight into the highs and lows of his colourful personal and professional life, from hosting The Generation Game to appearing in Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **1.35 SuperCasino** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 Wildlife SOS** The work of volunteers at an animal sanctuary. (R) **4.20 Wildlife SOS** The work of volunteers at an animal sanctuary. (R) **4.45 House Doctor** Ann Maurice helps a couple sell their three-bedroom detached house. (R) **5.10 House Doctor** (R) **5.35 Wildlife SOS** (R)

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DRIVETIME

Selecting the right product

Selecting the correct oil and lubricant for each car has never been more important – and a Shrewsbury-based manufacturer has come up with a simple way to make the job much easier.

Morris Lubricants has launched WHATOIL? – which can be found at www.whatoildoineed.com – as a user-friendly internet-based system which advises the correct product simply by entering a few basic details.

For passenger cars and motorcycles, it's as easy as entering a registration plate number and the programme will produce a list of the recommended products for the engine, gearbox and brakes.

The selection tool also works for advising the correct Morris products for vehicles and machines in the commercial vehicle, agriculture, off-highway and industrial sectors.

Technology

The tool uses the latest responsive technology, meaning it works just as well on smartphone devices and tablets as it does on a computer and can be used abroad by Morris Lubricants' growing band of international clients.

The new WHATOIL? system replaces the previous tool on the Morris Lubricants website, which has served thousands of customers well for years.

Morris Lubricants marketing manager Craig Bastable said the selector application would make the job of choosing the correct high quality lubricant or oil easier than ever.

He said: "Choosing the right product is absolutely crucial. Every engine is different and requires a particular specification of oil. Get it wrong and it can cause serious problems and failures and have major financial implications.

"Our previous selection tool has been well used over the years but the new WHATOIL? system is easier, more attractive and more informative.

"Crucially, it can be used on mobile devices and tablets which means it can be accessed within seconds by aftermarket professionals in garages or maintenance professionals from locations such as workshops and factory floors.

"WHATOIL? will advise on the best products, but our technical support team are still available on the telephone to offer any more assistance and advice that is required.

"It means that we'll be able to offer a top quality, all-round service package to our new and existing customers."

whatoil?

whatoildoineed.com

Morris Lubricants is a British company that has been manufacturing lubricants in Shrewsbury since 1869. Over 140 years of development has seen the company grow to become one of Europe's leading oil blenders and marketers, with a reputation for quality and service.

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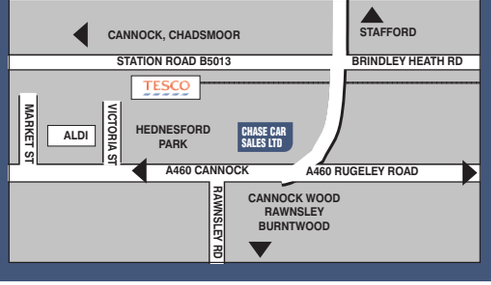

WE HAVE A MASSIVE CHOICE OF CARS, 4X4's, & MPV's TO CHOOSE FROM

Supermini is looking good with new styling

By David Banner

Vauxhall has thoroughly revised its popular Corsa supermini, complete with cleaner, greener engines and a look influenced by the fashionable Adam.

The revisions to the Corsa are extensive, and while Vauxhall's engineers have retained the previous car's basic platform, much work has been done on the way the car drives as well as how it looks.

Visually the Corsa's been influenced by the funky Adam, while there's been an increased focus on boosting the green credentials of the car's engine range. And to improve the 'big car' feel, there's now a wealth of added value safety kit and creature comforts available.

It's hardly a surprise that the new Corsa looks a little bit like the Adam. From the front at least, Vauxhall's mainstream supermini now boasts a little more character and is easier to spot in the supermarket car park.

And being Vauxhall's volume-selling car, it's got to perform for a wide variety of customers, be they private buyers or company car users. As such, the major selling point is low running costs, thanks in part to new and revised engines, plus a greener approach to motoring.

In supermini terms the Corsa offers a good level of cabin space and practicality. It's available in three and five-door form, and there's ample boot space for a car of this size. And for a car that has to work for a wide variety of users, cabin oddment storage space is more than enough for mobile phones, drinks, maps and the like.

Previously the Corsa was rarely top of keen drivers' shopping lists, but Vauxhall's engineers have done a good job of closing the gap on the likes of Ford's Fiesta. A thorough overhaul of suspension and steering elements has resulted in a more engaging experience, while refinement and the ability to cope with poor roads have also been improved.

Vauxhall has also spent a lot of time improving the Corsa's engine range, with the result being a greater focus on economy and ease of driving. Some existing units have been improved, such as the firm's 1.3-litre diesel units – now offering sub-100g/km CO2 figures, while an all-new 1.0-litre, three-cylinder petrol motor has been introduced in two states of tune: 90 and 115 horsepower. The latter is pleasantly smooth and quiet, yet punches well above its weight.

Vauxhall's not been shy in adding a considerable amount of kit, with the highlights being a heated windscreen, the choice of heated seats and steering wheel, plus advanced safety kit and a high-end infotainment system previously only found on more expensive cars higher up the Vauxhall food chain. Factor in the greener and more economical engines, plus the ability to save money at the pumps and reduce the amount you give to the taxman each year, and the Corsa's value-for-money status is pleasingly more attractive than before.

The Corsa has always appealed to a wide audience, and it's likely to be the same with this new model. Private buyers form a significant proportion of the market and there's no shortage of choice when it comes to engine and trim combinations. Offering both three and five-door bodystyles does much to further boost its chances in a crowded market.

Vauxhall hasn't forgotten business users either. Low CO2 rated engines and fleet-specific trim levels should make the business of buying company cars an easy one.

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4x4's

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 21.7 (13.0) to 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) to 94.2 (3.0), Combined 30.4 (9.3) to 88.3 (3.2). CO_2 emissions for the ŠKODA range 217 to 85g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: Swift SZ4 available from £12,199 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available from £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. *Model shown: Swift 1.2 SZ4 4x4 5dr available from £13,699 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on Swift 4x4 range: Swift 1.2 SZ3 5dr 4x4 available from £11,799, including a customer saving of £2,360 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £14,159 (SZ3 5dr 4x4) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st October 2014 to 31st December 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.

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BU64OJY	**Suzuki Swift Sport** Mc 1.5 5 Door Hatchback Cosmic Black Pearl Metallic 4,000 miles	£12495
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12/62 Peug 107 1.0 Allure 5dr	£5,699
13/13 Peug 107 1.0 Active 3dr	£5,699
10/60 Citr C3 1.4 VTR+ 5dr	£5,799
09/09 Fiat G/Punto 1.4 T-Jet Sping 3dr	£5,799
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12/12 VW Up 1.0 Take Up 3dr	£5,799
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deaths

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT
CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 11.30am every Tuesday for the same weeks edition.

CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

Thursday, December 18.

There will be no publication.

Thursday, December 25.

Deadline Wednesday, December 17, at 2.30pm.

Thursday, January 1

Deadline Monday, December 22, at 11am.

CLARE
Patricia Valerie (Pat)

Sadly passed away on December 12, 2014, aged 77 years.

Funeral Service to take place on Tuesday, December 23, 2014, at All Saints Church, Bloxwich, at 10.30am, followed by Interment at North Walsall Cemetery.

Flowers welcome.

All inquiries to
ROY QUINTON
Funeral Directors
01922 496800.

ROCHELLE
Douglas Alan

Of Hednesford.

Sadly passed away, December 11, at New Cross Hospital, aged 90 years.

A very special Husband (to the late Kathlyn), Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather. He will be missed.

His Funeral Service will take place at St Peter's Church, Hednesford, at 3.30pm, Monday, December 22, followed by a private Committal at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only but donations would be appreciated for St.Giles, c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street,
Cannock, WS11 1SW
01543 502322

in memoriam

AINGER
Aaron
Our wonderful Son

April 04, 1988 - December 27, 2008.

If we could have one more lifetime wish, one dream that could come true, we'd ask with all our hearts, for yesterday and you.

Aaron, we love and miss you every second of every day, that love will bind us for eternity.
Love, Mum and Jed.

Our Brother

Six years without you.

It has and never will be the same.

It feels like a lifetime since we got to tell you we love you.

Christmas is not Christmas without you.

Always in our hearts, little big man.

Love you always.

Merry Christmas.

Love, Elise and Theo.

Aaron

December 27.

You are not just a memory, or part of the past, you are ours to remember as long as life lasts.

A bond so strong it will not go away because we love and miss you more each day.

Love, brokenhearted Nan and Grandad Till.

X X

His Light Shines On

Aaron

Another sad year without you, Aaron but you are always in our thoughts and in the thread of our lives.

With love and remembrance.
From Viv, Karen and John.

BAILEY
Jesse

December 15, 2007

Your memories are so precious, your presence missed so much, because you were so special and dearly loved by all of us.

We love and miss you so much.

Wife, Barbara, Karen, Keith, Kim, Jess and extended Family.

X X X

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

HALL
Doreen

Two years, December 24.

Memories of you will never grow old, like Autumn leaves they turn to gold. Never more than a thought away, loved and remembered every day. In Heaven one day I will find you and all our hurt will go, I will put my arms around you and gently say hello.

Your loving Husband John and Family.

X X X

MEAKIN
Tom

One long year

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard but always there, still loved, still missed and very dear.

Loving Wife Maureen and Family.

X X X

MYRING
Yvonne
Wife, Mom and Nan.

20.5.54 - 26.12.12

Sadly missed.

Christmas will never be the same again.

X

O'TOOLE
Sean

Died on January 4, 2014, aged 45 years.

One year since you left us, the saddest I have known, forever in our memory, you will never be alone.

Sleep in Heavenly peace.

Rita, Keith and Ian.

SEABRIDGE
Joe
Dad, Grandad and Great-Grandad.

One year December 19, 2013.

Memories we keep one by one, things you have said, things you have done, they bring back a smile, sometimes a tear but always the wish that you were still here.

God bless.

Mike, Carol, John and Family.

X X X

acknowledgements

BLOWER
Terry

The Family of the late Terry Blower, wish to thank all Relatives, Friends and Neighbours, for their attendance at the Funeral Service and for all the donations for Katharine House and sympathy cards received.

God bless you all.

FORRESTER
Edith May

Marilyn, Robert, Melvin and Family would like to thank Co-operative Funeralcare, Cannock and all who attended Bushbury Crematorium for the Service of Mom, for all your support and kind thoughts during this sad time, Thursday and Tuesday night dancers, Hawkins' Sports and Social Club, Landywood Voluntary Respite Team, all donations to Air Ambulance £410.

Thank you all.

christmas remembrances

BELL
Michael

and

CHANDLER
Lorna
nee Bell

October 29, 2014 and May 26, 2014

Sleep dear Michael and take your rest, missed by us who loved you best.

Wife Dawn, Children and Grandchildren.

Broken is the Family circle, a dear Brother and Sister have slipped away but while they lie in peaceful sleep, their memories we will always keep.

Vivienne, Angela, Tony, David, Peter, Marshall and Spouses.

MINCHER
Marge
Wife

Thinking of you this Christmas and how things just aren't the same, there's this dull and nagging heartache when someone speaks your name, sadly I can't buy gifts for you, just silent tears that fall, for this time of year without you, is the hardest time of all.

Love you always and forever.

Eric.

X X X

Mom

We would give the world if we could say Merry Christmas to our Mom today, to hear her voice, to see her smile, would be our dearest wish this Christmas Time.

Love you always and forever.

Chris and Aussie, Rob and Caroline, Emily and Grace.

X X X X X X

birthday remembrances

ARBERY
Eileen

22.12.14

No special card to write for your birthday but all our love comes from our hearts.

Husband Al, Stuart, Richard, Mark and Families.

X X X

coming of age

Rosie Dawson-Ward
Happy 18th birthday on December 26th.
Love from Nan, June and Grandad Tom, Auntie Linzi and Family.
X X X

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Tuesday, December 23	8.30am – 5.30pm
Christmas Eve, Wed 24	8.30am till 2pm
Christmas Day, Thurs 25	Closed
Boxing Day, Friday 26	Closed
Saturday, December 27	Closed as normal
Monday, December 29	8.30am – 5.30pm
Tuesday, December 30	8.30am – 5.30pm
New Years Eve, Wed 31	8.30am till 2pm
New Years Day, Thurs 1	Closed
Friday, January 2	8.30am – 5.30pm
Saturday, January 3	Closed as normal

Please note that our deadlines will be subject to change considerably over the Christmas period. Please call 01902 317 878 for any further information.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

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holidays

north wales

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4 Pets & Animals

vets

Express & Star

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equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

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pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

PEDIGREE CHIHUAHUA Black Boy Puppy. Ready now. Telephone 07952 926466.

POODLE. Toy, female, slightly older, very loving, fully immunised. Genuine reason. 07801 659239.

YORKIE PUPPIES 8 weeks old, male and female, flead and wormed. £325.07543 970722.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

5 Business & Farming

business directory

business opportunities

BROKE ? ... BORED?
Brain stagnation setting in but can't take a job because of children?
I have 2 kids, work from home, part-time and earn more money than most full time directors do!
INTERESTED? 07808 211817

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BRIERLY HILL 2-bed house, newly decorated, suit working or retired, £500pcm. 07585 429131.

HEDNESFORD Pye Green, 3 bed GCH semi,clean and tidy, £115pw. Telephone 07768 040127.

ONE AND THREE bed flats, Tipton, Dss considered. 07906 878175. 07961 301577.

ONE BED FLAT and bedsit, Tipton. DSS considered. 07961 301577 or 07906 878175.

THREE BED end terraced house, DG CH, Essex Street Walsall, dep required, £510pm. 07939 910105.

WALSALL. Bedsit with own facilities. Rooms to let. Telephone 07825 581676.

coast & country

CHALET FOR SALE, 6 berth, Clarach Bay holiday village, all amenities on site, £1,000 ono. 0121 293 2381 or 07773 573068.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

courses

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full time - general

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www.honeybunsnurseries.com

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hotel & catering

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For further information ring Sarah on 07817 398550.

nursing & carers

SUPPORT WORKER required - Rugeley / Cannock area. 25 hrs p.w. supporting vulnerable adults, autism experience, own car essential. Call Carlton: 07929 248834.

office & secretarial

ADMINISTRATOR - January 2015 Start Exciting new business based in Lichfield Applicants should have a good working knowledge of Microsoft office including word, excel, outlook, some basic accounts and knowledge of social mediaApplications in writing including an up to date CV e-mailed to s.stone@pettorway.co.uk

part time - general

NEWS DELIVERERS required for the WS11-0, WS11-1 and WS11-8 Rumer Hill area of Cannock.
Please call Customer Services on 0800 174 064.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI A4 2.0 QUATTRO, 2005, 118k, 4wd, met blue, MoT Sept, fsh, alloys, abs, pas, alarm, full airbags. £3,300 ono. 07776 147108.

FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 1.2 Petrol, 04, 5-drs, blue, ABS, air bag, electric mirrors and windows, air con, FSH, alarm, New MoT, metallic paint, central locking, PAS, Alloys, CD, one owner, Superb.

£1,350.

Telephone 07724 629285.

FORD FOCUS 1.6, 2004, MoT'd, dark blue with leather trim. £625. 0121 502 1279.

HONDA ACCORD TOURER 2004, Estate, 141,000 miles, leather, metallic, MoT, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, stereo CD, alarm, towbar.
£1,600 ono.
07463 580858.

HONDA CRV
2008, 187,000 miles, grey, AC, FSH, alarm, long MoT, auto, one owner, cruise control, PAS, alloys, Navigation system, Leather interior,
£4,600.
01543 458100

HYUNDAI I10 1.2 CLASSIC 59 plate, 25,000 miles, blue, 9 months MoT, recent full service, one owner, good condition. Ideal first car.
£3,850.
01543 453013.

MERCEDES E430 1999, silver, 74,000 genuine miles, 12 months MoT, FSH, lovely condition, £1,350. 07970 992872.

SUZUKI JIMNY SZ4, 59 reg, black, 12000 miles, service history, 10 months MoT, looks new, £5,995. 01543 675063. 07939 161436.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

DAIHATSU TERIOS, 2002, 62,500 miles, silver, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, stereo, 4x4, excellent condition, £1,375 ono. 07971 199414.

FIAT PUNTO, 2004, 64,000 miles, grey, e/w, MoT, central locking, pas, psh, immobiliser, MP3/Aux stereo, £1,295 ono. 01902 256478.

FORD ESCORT ESTATE 1.6, W reg, MoT, alloys, towbar, roof rack, radio cassette, clean. £295. 01922 646406 or 07466 082028.

FORD GALAXY ZETEC, 7 seater people carrier, 2000 model, low miles, excellent condition, good MoT, used daily, all extras, cheapest ever
£795.
07825 361127.

HYUNDAI GETZ 1.0, 2004, 32k miles, red, electric windows, long MoT, good condition, £995 ono. 07761 532710.

HYUNDAI GETZ, 2004, 98,930 miles, black, MoT. 1.5 diesel. £1,100 ono. 07805 050539.

MERCEDES 190E
1992, silver, electric windows, long MoT, auto, metallic paint, central locking, pas, diesel, sunroof, stereo.
£1,250.
07717 208663.

TOYOTA AVENSIS 55 Reg, MoT April 2015, 140,000 miles, £850. 07448 950663.

TOYOTA YARIS Verso, 01, 46,500 miles, met dark red, 11 months MoT, very good condition. £1,125. 01922 479590/ 07957 742129.

VAUXHALL CORSA W reg, 1.2, metallic blue, 3dr, MoT till May, 61,000 miles, clean and tidy, £425 ono. 07514 081104.

commercial vehicles

ASTRA VAN X reg, 2001 diesel, 135,000 miles, good condition, £800. 01922 475392.

VAUXHALL COMBO VAN, MoT August, white, 2004, £1,000. Telephone 07581 112596.

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spares & accessories

accessories & services

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01785 664349.

number plates

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

JOSEPH ALAN PARSONS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 1 Caxton Court Caxton Street Cannock Staffordshire WS11 0EA, who died on 06/11/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 27/02/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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T426362

10 Personals

personal

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general

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KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301**

AMANDA 5ft 4ins slim fit attractive, enjoys the outdoors, nice wine, theatre etc. seeking romantic considerate soul mate to broaden my horizons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415391**

LUCY, broadminded 18yrs seeks discreet fun with men any age. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1941 Box No: 365051**

SAM attractive single mum who really enjoys life and likes to be happy WLTM genuine single male/dad for mutual companionship, dates in/out and tlc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415381**

SEXY brunette, mid 20's busty, adventurous broad minded seeks no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 361739**

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SALLY, 38yrs large cuddly lady seeks slim men for discreet meetings. **Text Only 4550193**

23YR old Asian female, seeks sugar daddy, any age for fun and much more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415367**

TRUDY 36yrs, wltm broadminded men of any age/area for daytime meetings. **Text Only 4550194**

YOUNG looking female, likes rock music, concerts, theatre, seeks Rock male with similar interests for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415249**

MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call if you want no strings fun. **Text Only 4550198**

JENNI, 52 bored housewife wants no strings fun with younger chap. **Text Only 4550197**

GEM 34yr old pretty brunette with lovely big eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTM kind tallish male, 30-50yrs for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415571**

50 year old widow, love reading, walking, horse riding, clay shooting, swimming & keep fit, 5ft 5 blond hair, gsoh looking for similar male. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4435776**

SYLVIA attractive blonde size 12 45yr old female looking for genuine companionship, someone to spend quality times with, enjoy music and cosy times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415543**

FEMALE looking for male any age for fun, meet ups, friendship and take it from there. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4550576**

HOME alone far too often, attractive bubby fun good time girl 32yrs seeking male 30-50yrs for broadminded daytime fun. Let's rid the boredom! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415523** tt

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399**

SUE attractive, independent, confident female, sporty, petite, loves the Arts, good books, looking for romantic, sensitive nice guy for nice times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415501**

LUCY, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty boys of any age for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1887 Box No: 413443**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fir, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211**

BUBBLY larger than life 28yr old blonde bombshell, seeks large built male to fulfil my every fantasy! Give me a call; I will totally make your day maybe even your year. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414977**

BARBARA 38 slim sporty attractive blonde, varied interests, single and ready to date, seeks kind honest guy for shared interests, fun nights out, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414967**

JULIE single petite attractive big blue eyed brunette, loves cooking a cosy meal in, nights out, searching for real love with genuinely nice guy. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414491**

GOOD looking professional lady, 56, enjoys the arts, country walks, meals out, seeks compatible, genuine, professional gent to enjoy the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415007**

ANGIE 38yrs slim blonde, ex model with lovely long legs with shapely figure, fit, toned, sporty, confident but warm, WLTM similar perceptive, sensitive individual for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414723**

MANDY very attractive, slim single mum 36yrs, employed, OHAC, looking to share some quality times with similar genuine kind hearted social male/dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415409**

DIANE attractive singleton seeks male to have some fun with, meals out, cinema, dancing and just see were things lead from there. Age/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415373**

SHELIA Asian 20yr old female, very pretty, feminine with long hair, enjoys nights in or out, seeking mature white male 55plus for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415181**

MARGARET 39, attractive active female likes animals, reading, meals in/out, seeking considerate partner for good laughs, companionship, shared interests and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414727**

Men seeking women

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GENTLEMAN retired, N/S, seeking lady for companionship and sharing good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415609**

SHAUN 26 likes walking, singing, music, would like to meet someone my own age for friendship maybe relationship. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4567328**

MALC 50, seeking adventurous, spontaneous, sensual female, 50-65 for adult fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415253**

34YR old slim, dark haired, creative, adventurous, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

JOHN 46, West Midlands, seeks local black/Asian female, 30-70 for discreet adult fun, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415591**

JAMES, hard working single dad, late 30's seeks single mum for family days out. **Text Only 4550196**

MALE seeking fun bubbly female, 21-30. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415473**

JOHN, 42yrs professional genuine gent seeks caring lady to treat as a princess. **Text Only 4550195**

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GARY 6ft 2ins, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks female, 30-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414845**

SLIM male, 59, seeks no strings adult fun with broadminded mature woman, 65 plus. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414983**

ROY 6ft 2ins, late 50's, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414775**

MATURE male, 6ft, GSOH, fit, active, loving, honest, N/S, seeks female with similar qualities. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414261**

GENUINE guy looking for uncomplicated fun with lady up to 50 txt only will answer all txt. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4202609**

PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

PROFESSIONAL male, 49 looking for fun and good times with voluptuous lady. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4574340**

EXTREMELY genuine! Life's true gent, 54, slim, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, short hair, N/S, GSOH, seeks female, 41-52. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413925**

JOHN 40's, tall, athletic, active, adventurous, cheeky, tactile, fun, own teeth, loves life, seeks similar fun female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414067**

SEAN 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945**

SEAN looking for female to share a coffee, pub, clubs and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414549**

GENUINE friendly, N/S professional, honest gent, medium build, GSOH, good heart essential, seeks equivalent lady, 45-60 for company and conversation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414311**

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, N/S, easy going male, 68, GSOH, seeks warm, genuine lady, 59-72 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414151**

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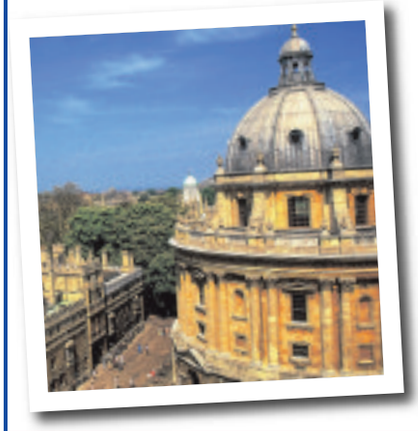

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Varela is tipped to play key role

SUMMER signing Silvestre Varela has been tipped for a key role in the remainder of Albion's season after his eye-catching full debut in the derby win against Villa.

Varela's Baggies teammates have predicted a bright future for the 29-year-old Portugal international after he impressed fans in Saturday's priceless victory.

Defender Gareth McAuley said: "He's a good player. We have been waiting a long time for Silv because he's been coming back from that double hernia operation.

"But I think he showed that he's a good player and he's one that the crowd will love. He gives us something different with his turning and ability to beat people. I spoke to him afterwards and asked him about the difference between playing in Portugal and playing here.

"He said 'it's quicker!' His English is coming on. He's a good lad.

"He comes in every morning and goes around everyone shaking hands.

"We try our best to communicate and a few of the lads speak Portuguese."

Varela joined the Baggies on a season-long loan from Porto.

Belt-ing job as Road run over Bow Street

Cannock Chase Football League
Cannock Chase Cup Round Three

BELT Road beat Bow Street 4-3 to progress to the quarter finals.

Damien Salt scored two followed by Matty Latham and Adam Richard. Bow Street fought back but the Belt held on.

Premier League

Leaders Brereton Lion beat CK77 3-1. Steve Allen, Ross Perry and MoM, Beckham Foultan all scored. Huntington came from two goals down to beat Dynamo Lamb 4-2. John Austin, MoM Ricky Bradley and two goals from Tom Green.

Ridware Oak beat Brereton Town 5-1.

Football

Goals from brothers John and Morgan Hurley, Ed Warrilow and two from Stuart Tapper gave the Champions the win.

Division One

Leaders Colliers Arms thrashed Lea Hall 10-0. Mick Millard scored five, Liam Andrews two and Mikey Barton, Jordan Taylor and Jay Holdcroft all scored.

Nelson Inn beat Wyrley Juniors 6-2.

Division Two

Cheslyn Hay beat Miners Rest 9-0. Scott Sjoerdsma scored five, Nick Pilditch three and Chad Stevens one.

A first half goal from Dan Jones was enough for the Slade to beat Hen House .

Tommy Carr was MoM.

Bridgtown Social beatAFC Victoria 11-2.

Jubilee beat Bell & Bottle 8-4.

Division Three

Leaders White Lion beat the Pear Tree 6-1. MoM Richard Tapper scored two, followed by a double from Mitch Preece with a goal each from Russ Ambrose and Mark Ellison.

Green Heath beat Soldiers 3-1. Ben Pugh tagged two with one from Jay Brookes. AFC Essington beat Romping Cat 3-2. Luke Speed, James Newton and Matt Corbett scored.

Pied Piper beat Cannock Social 3-1. Dave Brazier hit two with one from Thomas Southall. Glassworks beat Bridge FC 3-1 with goals from Craig Black, Ryan Tait and Andy Guy. Cannock Rgs drew 3-3 with the Castle.

Managers of the Month for November 2014 (Sponsored by Mick Woods)

Premier, Richard Knight of Ridware Oak; Div One Lee Simpson of Colliers Arms; Div Two Darren Frazier of Bow Street; Div Three Craig Arnold of Cannock Rangers.

Results from the indoor bowls

Briggs Equipment Indoor Bowls Results

Division One

B.PREECE and K.Hocknell 21 A and G.Parsons 20; D and G.Storer 21 K.Handley and D.Chester 11; D.Hayward and V.Gray 15 N.Newey and L.Hazlehurst 21; S.Edwards and PCookson 21 D.Hurcombe and S.Powis 10; L.Cavill and M.Bardsley 20 M.Evans and L.Pritchatt 21; N.Newey and L.Hazlehurst 21 S.Edwards and PCookson 20.

Points Table

Hayward and Gray 12, Newey and Hazlehurst 12, Evans and Pritchatt 12, Cavill and Bardsley 10, Edwards and Cookson 10, Storer and Storer 8, Preece and Hocknell 8, Handley and Chester 6, Hurcombe and Powis 4, Parsons and Parsons 2.

Division Two

A.Allcock and K.Johnson 10 A.Chambers and A.Westwood 21; R.Worthington and P.Lines 14 S and C.Baird 21; G.Garbett and B.Taylor 21 T.Partridge and B.Stacey 20; L. Simonczyk and P.Kelly 10 A.Preece and F.Statham 21; C.Everitt and S.Edwards 8 A.Chambers and A.Westwood 21; M and P.Colbourne 21 A.Allcock and K.Johnson 17

Points Table

Chambers and Westwood 14, Allcock and Johnson 12, Worthington and Lines 10, Preece and Statham 10, Simonczyk and Kelly 10, Baird and Baird 8, Everitt and Edwards 6, Colbourne and Colbourne 6, Partridge and Stacey 4, Garbett and Taylor 4.

Geldart strikes twice to take out Town team

Tipton Town 2 Heath Hayes 3

CHRIS Geldart netted twice as Heath Hayes boosted their survival hopes with a 3-2 win at fellow strugglers Tipton Town.

Hosts Tipton were left trailing in the visitors' wake in a keenly-contested local derby as defeat left them at the foot of the Midland Premier League. Heath Hayes now have a six-point gap over the bottom two.

Football

Tipton, however, had struck first after just four minutes when a flag-kick from the right was powerfully headed home by central defender Paul Henley.

The visitors, undeterred, threatened quickly with Danny Scragg spearing a firm header just over and it was 1-1 after eight minutes.

A searching cross from the right undid the home defence and Geldart equalised from close in.

Both sides tried to take charge as the action flowed end to end, Kyle Sheppard firing narrowly off target for Tipton.

Luke Wright was setting a fine example to his Heath Hayes colleagues with some powerful play that was helping to turn the tide in his side's favour and they took the lead in the 17th minute.

Joe Pickering cottoned on to a precision pass, enabling him to draw home keeper, Matt Martin, off his goalline before accurately driving the ball past him.

Tipton rallied briefly, Sean Pugh freeing Ben Hadley but his shot passed a foot or so wide as the home club desperately sought to regain the initiative.

Most of the forward play was now being dictated by the visitors. Scragg was again to the fore but, with a goal seemingly a formality, he drove wildly over the top in the 26th minute.

Tipton were too often beaten to the ball but Sean Pugh almost struck on 30 minutes, his volley just clearing the visitors' crossbar.

Soon after the start of the second half, Pickering took advantage of some wayward play in the home defence but, with a third goal seeming a certainty for the now-dominant visitors, he fired just over.

Pugh was forced off with an injury in the 51st minute, Ian Millward deputising for Tipton, as the home side began to mount a much sterner challenge.

In the 62nd minute Geldart netted his second,a thoroughly sloppy goal too from Tipton's point of view, to put the visitors 3-1 in front and, in control of the game.

With injury time being played Ben Hadley scrambled a goal back for Tipton through a packed goalmouth but the visitors clung on to the points.

Fine year for boxing club topped off with title

Members of the Rugeley Police Boxing Club which has enjoyed a good year in the ring

STEVEN SMITH has completed a fine year for his gym by bringing home the UniBox Midlands welterweight title – but Rugeley Police Boxing Club still want more.

His area crown adds to the three they already claimed in the championships during 2014, plus a national semi-finalist and finalist, *writes Craig Birch*.

The new season will see Smith look to go, at least, one better to a national title decider in the England Development tournament, where Lloyd Ransome will also drop down to heavyweight.

Morgan Jones also claimed Midlands honours in the junior side of the competition, before going out in the quarter-finals.

There are also high hopes for 13-year-old Myles Basford, son of trainer Kenny, when he debuts in the England Schoolboys next year.

Coach Ian Lear said: "We targeted three Midlands titles and a couple of national champions, so we are actually behind on where we wanted to be.

"We are a well-kept secret, there isn't a club round here for miles but we are making our mark in the championships. That should help attract more members." The fight factory, based on Wellington Drive, was started 1967.

Banks's in a Tiss over Matt

FORMER Southampton and England ace, Matt Le Tissier, entertained a sell-out Banks's Stadium crowd.

The current Sky Sports pundit spoke at length about his time as a top-flight footballer, representing his country and his current television role at a sporting dinner at Walsall.

Famous for his almost impeccable record from the penalty spot, the technically gifted midfielder spent his whole career with Southampton, winning the PFA Young Player of the Year in 1990 and earning eight caps for his country.

"It was an honour to have Matt here," said Saddlers' chief executive, Stefan Gamble. We had Jimmy Greaves with us recently."

Blues hand out a right Royal rout

Birmingham 6 Reading 1

Paul Caddis opened the scoring before Gray's clinical first-half hat-trick, while goals from Andrew Shinnie and David Cotterill completed the rout.

Caddis blasted home from a clever fourth-minute free-kick before Gray broke to make it 2-0 against the run of play.

Reading pulled one back in the 19th minute through Glenn Murray, only for the excellent Gray to restore the two-goal lead with another well-taken solo effort.

Reading at that point were actually arguably the better team, yet Gray completed his hat-trick before half-time, again on the break to help seal the fater of the Royals.

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165.70-13	£32	195.65-15	£40	195.50-15	£40	225.45-17	£49
165.70-14	£34	185.60-14	£36	195.45-15	£43	205.50-17	£50
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Iorfa is an example to talent of future

DOMINIC IORFA can be an example to follow for the next generation of Wolves stars, according to Kenny Jackett.

The Molineux men are proud of their record of nurturing talent from their academy ranks and 19-year-old Iorfa became the latest graduate in last weekend's defeat to Bournemouth.

Despite the result, right-back Iorfa was named man of the match and the experience clearly whetted his appetite for more.

"I thought he had a very solid debut," said Jackett.

"One thing he can do is to get forward a lot more than that.

"He got forward OK but there is a lot more potential to come. I was pleased with him." Iorfa, who hails from Southend, had first-team experience last season on loan at Shrewsbury.

He has followed the likes of Ethan Ebanks-Landell and Liam McAlinden in getting calls-up this year. "I think it gives everybody a sense of purpose, why they are here and what they can achieve if they do well enough, apply themselves and work hard to the best of their ability," said Jackett.

Burntwood triumph in tough match-up

Burntwood 26 Newcastle (Staffs) 20
Midlands 3 West North

Rugby

THE contest was a great advert for Level 8 rugby with both sides looking to throw the ball around only to be met by tough defence.

There was only one try for each side but there was a lot of endeavour which kept the result in the balance until the final whistle.

Will Peach put the hosts ahead with a penalty goal on two minutes after a half break by skipper Ben Holt. When his forwards re-gathered the restart kick Hal Gozukucuk put Holt away again only to be brought back for a forward pass. Peach's second goal attempt from long range was short and wide a minute later.

Newcastle drew level after 11 minutes with a penalty goal from the hosts' 10 metre line, the offence being for holding on in the tackle, a frequent occurrence by Burntwood during the match.

The home team's approach play was promising in the first quarter but against the run of play the visitors went ahead on 19 minutes. Their No.7 stole possession near halfway to set his right winger away. He was brought down on the home five metre line but the ball was recycled left for the opposite winger to score in the clubhouse corner.

A good response by the hosts led to a penalty goal by Peach from the 22 metre line only to be cancelled out by the Newcastle kicker replying in kind . They repeated the act before the break, Newcastle's score coming right at the end of the half to see them lead 14-9.

In a repeat of the first period, Peach kicked a penalty two minutes into the second half .

Peach's side went ahead with an excellently worked try.

Aza Dunet's strong run then carried him past two defenders for a score.

Peach failed with the conversion but extended the lead with a penalty on 53 minutes, then another on the hour.

Directly from the restart the Newcastle kicker was on target with the penalty.

Peach added his seventh penalty goal with seven minutes left. Three minutes later the visitors got a bonus point.

Jordan cooks up perfect recipe

Walsall 3 Barnsley 1

Walsall boss Dean Smith kept faith with his players.

He drafted in only Leicester man Michael Cain to compensate for the ongoing injury problems of Sam Mantom. And unlike four years ago when the Saddlers remained mired in the bottom four , Walsall have gradually eased away from danger.

The star men of this display were further evidence of how far Walsall have come.

Jordan Cook scored two – one an absolute blinder – and made the other for goal machine Tom Bradshaw. Both are on two-year deals.

As Smith admitted after the game, some at Walsall were amazed they had been able to land a player like Cook on a two-year contract in the summer.

It was something you suspect would never have happened in Hutchings' reign.

Then – and Chris Hutchings is by far not the only former Walsall manager guilty of this – there was no long-term vision. The Saddlers got by year-to-year.

Smith, in contrast, has tried his best to provide continuity by tying down players for longer.

Scholars scoreless in an even contest

Stockbridge PS 0 Chasetown 0

CREDIT had to be given to Stocksbridge for having a playing surface that was able to beat the weather with many games called off.

But neither the Scholars nor their hosts could make the most of it by scoring. An even contest saw both sides create chances but the two goalkeepers and the frame of the goal kept it goalless .

Football

Chasetown gained their first ever point against the Steels after four previous defeats when they were together in the Northern Premier League Premier Division.

The Scholars started brightly and skipper Chris Slater advanced and had a shot blocked by a defender before Nathan Waite fired the rebound straight at the keeper Liam Flynn who was able to make the ball safe.

Appeal

Chasetown had an early penalty appeal turned down when Steels defender Stephen Hoyle appeared to scoop the ball away with his hand but the protests came to nothing.

Stocksbridge forced John Bateman into two comfortable saves as both sides created openings in what turned out to be an entertaining first 20 minutes of the match.

A Danny Edwards' corner saw Nick Wellecomme flick a header narrowly over the bar before another couple of Edwards' in-swingers had Flynn scrambling to punch the ball clear, but still neither team could get on the scoreboard.

The it was down to goalkeeper Liam Flynn to make a finger tip save to deny Chasetown's Richard Davies while Chase keeper John Bateman twice kept out Lee Garside, one with a strong kick away and the other diving bravely at the striker's feet.

Although the visitors had good second half possession it was the home side who went closest to the winner.

Firstly, Kler Heh struck the post early in the second half, then late on substitute Rory Coleman frustratingly hit the top of the Chasetown crossbar.

In the dying seconds of the match, Chase substitute Danny Griffiths fashioned out a chance for himself, and his skidding shot was no more than two feet wide of Flynn's right hand post.

Still the winning goal eluded both teams to leave the match scoreless and the two opponents have to share the points as the final whistle blew.

Chasetown: Bateman, Johnson, Beckett, Slater, Miles, Downes, Davies, Parsons, Wellecomme (Danks, 87 mins), Waite (Griffiths, 69 mins), Edwards (Brown, 69 mins)

Grant Beckett chases down the ball for the Scholars during the match against Stockbridge which remains scoreless

Dicko may be back for Xmas

NOUHA DICKO could be back on Wolves' duty soon.

The live wire forward has not played since the October 25 victory at Leeds because of a nagging hamstring injury.

But head coach Kenny Jackett confirmed Dicko and defender Ethan Ebanks-Landell could both be set for comebacks when Brighton visit Molineux on Saturday.

Both will train this week before Jackett decides whether they are fit enough to feature.

Either way, the duo have a good chance to be involved in the Christmas games.

"I certainly hope they will be back for the Christmas games."

Best is yet to come, vows Ideye

ALBION record signing Brown Ideye insists his best is yet to come after admitting he has taken time to adapt to life at The Hawthorns.

Ideye made just his third Premier League start recently and, despite struggling personally, the £10m man helped the Baggies to a 1-0 derby win against Villa.

Now the Nigeria international believes he is edging closer to his best.

"I was happy that I was in the first XI," said Ideye. "I was always hungry to start for West Brom and I always give my best.

"Sometimes it's difficult but I have to keep on pushing and working hard for the team. I am getting closer to my best."

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SPORT

Geldart's goals
Hayes boost survival hopes with win
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Scoreless draw
Even contest ends without goals
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Winger begins to show his form

SADDLERS boss Dean Smith believes Walsall are beginning to see the best of Jordan Cook after the winger's two-goal blast in Saturday's 3-1 win over Barnsley.

Cook's brace included a 'goal of the season' contender – a stunning half-volley from the edge of the box.

And Smith believes the former Sunderland man is ready to fire on all cylinders after missing the first two months of the season with a broken ankle.

Smith said: "I've got a lot of time for Jordan – I think he's a super player. He was very impressive on Saturday. His first goal was a fantastic strike.

"During pre-season, players were asking me how we had managed to get him on a two-year contract.

"Then unfortunately he broke his ankle and it takes time to come back from that. But he's starting to look brighter and brighter and that's only good news for us."

Smith was also pleased with the link-up down Walsall's left between Cook and teenage full-back Rico Henry, who made his league debut against the Tykes.

The manager added: "Jordan worked really hard and I think he likes the responsibility of looking after Rico Henry behind him, not that Rico needs any helping.

Sacked boss is left blue

READING have sacked manager Nigel Adkins in the wake of Saturday's humiliating 6-1 defeat at Birmingham.

Adkins, who took the reins at the Madejski Stadium from Brian McDermott in March 2013 and presided over relegation from the Premier League, leaves with the Royals in 16th position in the Championship following the heavy loss against Gary Rowett's men.

Assistant manager Andy Crosby and first-team coach Dean Wilkins have also left.

A club statement read: "The board of Reading Football Club have this afternoon relieved manager Nigel Adkins of his duties.

"The club met with Nigel in person and we would like to place on permanent record our thanks to him for his hard work and diligence since his appointment."

Cannock get the upper hand in derby clash

Cannock 22 Rugeley 5

Rugby

CANNOCK welcomed Rugeley to the Morgan ground. Not only a local derby, the stakes were high with a Rugeley win seeing them leapfrog the Lions into 2nd place.

Strong defence from the off from Joe Brooke's and Stephen Frost pinned the visitors back.

A turnover with Gary Trow stripping the ball allowed skipper Jon Freeman to pass to Frost who crossed over with only two minutes played.

Scott Pedley and Neil Cartwright had full control of proceedings and duly gained Cannock territory with good game management.

The once again dominant pack and front row of Scott Lathe, Trow and Craig Richards smashed a much heavier pack at the scrum and once again Freeman reaped the rewards going over to continue his impressive try ratio this term. 10-0.

Cannock were awarded a penalty and quick thinking from Freeman and he was over with a quick tap and Cannock extended their lead. Trow collected well from the kick off and off loaded to Brookes in contact. The second row carried well and popped off the floor to the supporting Brad Stanaway.

He found the rejuvenated Pedley who drew two defenders to allow man of the match Will Watkins space. The wing did well to finish off a great move from 20 metres out.

Rugeley did start to apply some pressure until a huge hit from Sonny Stanaway in midfield kind of halted their momentum. Freeman off loaded to B.Stanaway who crashed over for the Lions fifth try.

With 15 minutes remaining, Cannock began to tire. Whilst dominant at the breakdown and scrum, Rugeley had some big units and it was real graft to stay on top.

On came Madsen and Forrester and both gave the fresh legs that were needed.

Madsen cut a nice line in midfield and found the powerhouse Josh Humphries. Humphries and Gareth Leys centre partnership continued to dominate oppositions with no gaps in defence and dangerous attacking lines means they are surely one of the most potent pairings in the division.

Rugeley scored with the final play.

FIVE-STAR SHOW SINKS CASUALS

Chasetown 5 W-ton Casuals 0

CHASETOWN eased into the next round of the Walsall Senior Cup with a convincing win over W-ton Casuals at The Scholars Ground.

Manager Craig Harris picked a strong line-up and the home side were ahead after just four minutes when Nathan Waite netted at the third attempt, half-volleying into the ground and high into the roof of the net.

It was a long time coming before the second goal didn't come until eight minutes before half-time.

ADanny Edwards corner was met by a powerful downward header from Jermaine Johnson beyond the grasp of Liam Stanton.

And it was 3-0 before the interval when the fleet-footed Danny Griffiths got goal-side of the Casuals' back four and drilled a low left-footed shot home across keeper Stanton, who got a touch on the ball but was unable to keep it out of the net.

Looped

After the break Waite got his second and Chasetown's fourth from a header, which was on target but deflected off the head of defender Dan Forward and looped over Stanton just after the hour.

The goal came before Griffiths added his own second goal running through the inside right channel and slotting a calm finish beyond Stanton's dive inside his left-hand post to further consolidate the Scholars position.

Football

Casuals had a late goal disallowed when a foul was awarded while Griffiths was denied a hat-trick late on with a volley that frustratingly skewed wide of the post.

Over the festive period and into the new year The Scholars welcome Stafford Rangers on Boxing Day, with the match kicking off at 3pm and then on the following Sunday, December 28 ,they head out to face Gresley away with kick off also 3pm.

On New Year's Day Chasetown will be looking to see in 2015 with a win when they are away to face Tividale with the kick off 3pm.

This is followed by another home match on January 3 where The Scholars play host to Loughborough, kick off 3pm then the following Wednesday, January 7 they head off to face Solihull Moors away, kick off 2pm.

Chasetown: Bateman, Johnson, Charlton, Slater, Miles, Downes (Beckett), Brown (McDonald), Parsons, Griffiths, Waite (Wellecomme), Edwards

Other subs: Davies, Pond (not used)

Danny Edwards gets stuck into a challenge during the match against Wolverhampton Casuals

Skipper wants a cracker

DANNY BATTH believes the crucial 1-0 win at Sheffield Wednesday can lead to a Christmas cracker for Wolves.

The 24-year-old captain put in a man of the match display at Hillsborough to help his side end a run of five successive defeats.

And now the skipper is looking for his side to pick up more momentum as they enter the festival spell that will seem them play four games in 14 days.

"It's non-stop. The Championship's a great standard and the lads are really going to be looking forward to the Christmas fixtures now," Batth said.

"Our fans have not had much to cheer about in the last few weeks so delivering a big away win at a club like Sheffield Wednesday was important.

"Hopefully we'll get some form together and we'll keep at it now and get the results needed over Christmas."

Batth applauded all four corners of Hillsborough on Saturday after enjoying two successful loan spells with Wednesday, including in 2011/12 when he helped the team win promotion to the Championship.

Spireites must replay MK Dons

THE FA has ruled Chesterfield must replay their FA Cup second-round tie with MK Dons.

The Spireites beat the Dons 1-0, but after the game admitted a charge of fielding an ineligible player, on loan Wolves player George Margreitter, who played despite not completing the necessary paperwork in time.

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